The Mirror of Life

ACCURATE ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE LEADING EVENTS OF THE DAY

VOL. I.—No. 9. [Entered at Stationer's Hall.] LONDON: MARCH 3, 1894. [Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.] PRICE FOUR PENCE.

THE "KID" AS A DECOY.

How a Virago Works a New Racket to a Profit.

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Published Weekly by
THE ALBION PUBLISHING COMPANY,
108, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

For the Week Ending
SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1894.

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"The Mirror of Life" will be sent to any address in the United Kingdom at the following rates:—

One Year, Post Free	...	17s. 4d.
Six Months, ditto	...	8s. 8d.
Three Months, ditto	...	4s. 6d.

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One inch, per insertion 10s. 6d.
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. J. (Belfast).—Thanks for communications.

R. (Bury).—Send report as you suggest.

G. D. (Leeds).—The receipt of group picture will be appreciated.

J. W. (Nottingham).—The portraits you suggest will appear shortly.

F. S. (Leicester).—We use only wood engravings on our outside pages. The class of work you speak of is much cheaper but does not give satisfaction.

N. (Liverpool).—See next week's issue for portrait you sent us.

E. F. (Kilburn).—Our representative will attend the show as you suggest.

Now that four knights of the razor have entered for a shaving competition, the winner of which will receive The Mirror of Life championship trophy, a meeting will be called of the prospective contestants to agree upon terms which shall govern the match. William Lloyd, who claims the championship because of his scratch win against Teddy Wick, displays no desire to contend, claiming that any match which he participates in shall be governed in accordance to rules patterned to suit his ideas.

* * *

The venue of the Corbett-Jackson mill has not yet been settled, and it is hardly likely any decision will be arrived at for some time to come. We are aware of the fact that James J. Corbett is coming to this country in April, but it will be in the guise of an actor, to appear as a "hero" in a drama which has a boxing scene in which he spars three rounds with his sparring partner. He will not complete a tour of the kingdom, as he and his manager has planned, short of two month stime, and that will bring him up to midsummer exhibiting. It is therefore doubtful if he does battle again short of next fall, because he would hardly risk taking on Jackson short of six weeks' strict training.

The coloured man is reaping a harvest exhibiting in the States, and it is not unlikely that he, too, will come here and make a tour. In Baltimore 23,000 people attended his performances in one week.

* * *

The Mandoline Club is a thing of the past, and its proprietor, Joseph Croner, will have four months' time in goal to repent maintaining the nuisance. On being released he will have to find sureties in £200 to keep the peace for two months. In default of this he must serve an additional three months' imprisonment.

* * *

Waving the "bloody rag" don't go in England nowadays. Some Anarchists hoisted one with a black border in Marylebone Road whilst Martial Bourdin's remnants were being conveyed through, *en route* to the St. Pancras Cemetery, on Friday. The police, however, made short work of it, and scattered the crowd.

Hair-dressing parlours and public-houses should always keep The Mirror of Life on file for the benefit of customers. Proprietors of such places will certainly find it to their advantage financially to accept this "tip," because the people who patronise such establishments frequently display an inclination to look over interesting journals, and The Mirror of Life is at the head of that list.

TEDDY WICK TO THE FRONT.

Teddy Wick, celebrated for rapid shaving, writes The Mirror of Life as follows:—"I have noticed the liberal offer of The Mirror of Life to give a championship trophy for shavers. Your suggestions as to conditions to govern the competition are extremely fair. On my return from Liverpool I shall certainly enter, providing Rymer and Lloyd compete. I was misused in my last match with Lloyd, and the next one I take part in practical hairdressers shall be referee and judges. I led Lloyd nine out of the twelve days in our late match, and can now realise where I made an error. Lloyd can't refuse to compete in your competition if he has any confidence in his ability as a rapid shaver."

CHINESE CELEBRATE THEIR NEW YEAR.

A Quiet Game Disturbed by the Police.

(Subject of Illustration.)

"This is New Year's Day for the Chinaman," writes a New York correspondent under date of February 5, "and the Chinese quarters are decorated in a quaint way in honour of the festivities. When a Chinaman is met to-day, and you want to make yourself particularly solid with him, just remark, 'Gong he fat toy.' This is not particularly euphonious when spoken in pigeon English; but it means 'I wish you a happy New Year.' The Chinese New Year began at twelve o'clock last night. Chon Chuck Ong, the present Mayor of Chinatown, says the Chinese Kingdom is now something like 5,800 years old, and the customs that obtained during the reign of Confucius are still in vogue. In fact, Mr. Chon Chuck Ong claims that most of the Christian ideas of celebrating New Year's Day were stolen bodily from the Chinese. Around in the various houses preparations were being made to receive friends. The opium layouts were put aside, and the fine Chinese whiskey placed upon the table. Anyone who called on a Chinaman yesterday had to take a drink of this fiery liquid. About six calls, says the Mayor, are about all a white man can make.

"At midnight every Chinaman who could buy a firecracker did so. Then he touched a match to his purchase, and for a few minutes pandemonium reigned. At one o'clock this morning the Chinese band began to beat its tom-toms from the balcony of the Joss House, calling all the faithful to prayer, and New Year's was really on hand. The extent of the New Year's celebration depends upon the wealth of each individual Chinaman. A poor Chinaman is satisfied with a two-days' 'bat.' The rich men in the Chinese village generally take a week to get fully acquainted with the new year. It is to-day that the Chinaman will pay off all his debts, both in business and gambling, and starts new accounts, many of which will not be paid till next New Year's day. They are all celebrating, some attending prayer, some the theatre, some receiving calls, and many trying their luck at Fan Tan. Yong Tay's laundry was raided to-day, and whilst the opium pipe was disengaged half a dozen were playing cards with Chinese coins. The police at first were going to lock them up, but a few drinks and a little explanation in pigeon English on the part of the party induced the blue coats to depart empty-handed."

HE CAUGHT THE THIEF.

A Polly Who was Feathering His Nest.

(Subject of Illustration.)

For some time past a family in Plymouth have missed articles of jewellery, and every trap imaginable was set to detect the thief. The cook was regarded with suspicion, but no proof was forthcoming to verify their suspicions. Determined to sift the matter down, a detective was employed to work up the case. He was about to surrender the case in disgust when his attention was attracted to a poll parrot, the household pet, coming downstairs. Lying in wait, he perceived Polly returning to the upper storey carrying something in his beak. He followed the bird to the guests' chamber, and, on glancing into the room, saw Polly before the mirror with all the missing articles.

Polly is kept in a cage now, and occasionally expresses displeasure over the confinement by rattling off a lingo which is too funny for anything.

MICK DUNN,

The Australian 10st Pugilist, now in London.

(With Portrait.)

Mick Dunn, the subject of our sketch, is an Australian pugilist who came here with Jim Burge and Hugh Napier prepared to meet all comers at even-weight. He had scored several victories against 10st men in the Colonies, and then visited the States, where his efforts proved a failure. He has not as yet succeeded in arranging a match in this country, but declares when he does appear in the ring he will give a good account of himself.

On Friday, March 2, he will box six rounds with Jack Welland at the Kennington Social Club, for a purse. Should he make a good stand against Welland, it is probable that a suitable offer will be made to him to box twenty rounds.

MR. IKE DE COSTA.

A Brighton Sportsman and Bookmaker.

(With Portrait.)

There is no countenance better known to south-country frequenters of the Turf than that of Mr. Ike de Costa. It is thirty years ago, after doing a little at Liverpool, that he started backing horses, attending almost every race-course in Great Britain. The point of departure was from the bottom rung of the ladder, as it has been with many another good man. For nearly twenty years he might be seen outside at the Lists making his moderate book, with George Gurney and Jack Baylis for travelling companions. Then business became thicker—a natural result of pluck and acumen, liberality and straightforwardness—and from the Lists the next move war to the Rings. For five years past this has been given up—except it be at the Brighton course—for the very good reason that the business of probably the largest s.p. bookmaker in the south of England requires attention at home. Every man, of course, has his ups and downs, but about the gamest things that Mr. de Costa ever did was to venture heavily, and win, on Doncaster for the Derby of 1873, on Inveresk for the Chester Cup of 1872, and on Petronel for the Two Thousand Guineas of 1880. Racing, however, is not by any means the only sport in which Mr. de Costa has shown interest. He was a good deal concerned with Slade, now years back the champion wrestler. He is one of the staunchest supporters of Peter Jackson, and did everything in his power to ensure the pugilist's success during each of his stays in England—for he was quick to see that Jackson is to the core a gentleman, and he has found the tawny fighter has the rather rare virtue of being sincerely grateful. For trotting ponies, too, he has a masterly eye, and he was owner of a fine specimen in "Ranger." Perhaps the most intimate of the friends of the late George Tanton—one of the finest judges of horseflesh in England—was Mr. de Costa. The well known "Whitey" is in his stables to this day; and of boat-racing he is a good judge too. At the present time he is a director of the Brighton Empire Theatre of Varieties and the managing director of the Brighton Corinthian Club. Although he himself is not often seen at meetings, there is the brother, Alf de Costa, to keep up the traditions of the family. It is now twenty-five years since the subject of our notice came to the Queen of Watering Places, where he carries on a very large wholesale and retail cigar business.

JOHN MARX.

Famous Hercules, who Challenges the World at Weight-lifting.

(With Portrait.)

John Marx, weight-lifter and strong man, was born at Luxembourg, Aug. 28, 1869, and is therefore in his 25th year; stands 5ft 11in, and scales 15½st. His physical measurements are: Chest, 46in; biceps, 18in; forearm, 15in; thigh, 26in; calf, 18in.

He went to the United States six years ago, locating at St. Louis. Training for weight-lifting, he rapidly obtained muscular development, and in 1889 he joined a circus, exhibiting feats of strength. In 1891 he came to this country and gave exhibitions for three months at the Royal Aquarium. Then he made a tour of the Continent, appearing at all the large cities. He returned to England eighteen months ago, and has since been located at London.

Among the principal feats which Marx accomplishes is the lifting of two weights, scaling seventy pounds each, with one hand to arm's length above head; the raising of heavy dumb bells with feet and hands whilst lying prostrate, and rolling heavy iron balls along the fore part of the legs; the breaking of horse-shoes; allowing stones to be broken on his chest; the breaking of stones with his naked hand.

Marx is open to meet Sandow, Sampson, J. W. Kennedy, or any man in the world in a weight lifting competition for any part of £500 a-side.

A SHOCKING OUTRAGE IN AMERICA.

A Woman Ravished by a Negro Dies.

Two Innocent Men Lynched for the Crime.

(Subject of Illustration.)

A remarkable and disgraceful lynching episode took place at Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A., February 18, which has roused the law-abiding citizens of the town to a state of intense indignation.

On the previous Saturday night a negro, whose identity was not established, ravished the body of Mrs. Rusker, a white woman, and left her in an out-house, locking the door from the outside and throwing away the key. Her screams and moans attracted a neighbour, who wedged open the door and found her lying on the floor in intense agony. She was so severely injured that she expired shortly afterwards. She remained alive, however, long enough to be able to give an imperfect description of her assailant. The news of the outrage soon became generally known in the district, and on February 18 a posse of armed men started out with the intention of finding the assassin and lynching him.

Shortly afterwards they came upon two negroes at the outskirt of the woods, who, terrified at the demeanour of the lynching party, immediately took to flight. This was taken as evidence of the guilt of the men, and the posse went on in hot pursuit. The negros were quickly overtaken, and then a discussion commenced as to which of the two had committed the crime. They both answered to the description given by the dying woman, but both protested their innocence, and stated that they had never seen or heard of Mrs. Rusker in their lives.

After some further consultation, the lynching party came to the conclusion that one of the men was the assassin, but they could not decide which. "Let's hang them both, and make sure of it," shouted some in the crowd. The suggestion was received with general approval, and in spite of their shrieks for mercy, the two unfortunate wretches were hanged to the branch of a tree, and their bodies, as usual in such cases, riddled with bullets.

It has since transpired that both men were peaceable and law-abiding, and bore an excellent character in the neighbourhood. Nothing points to their being in any way concerned in Mrs. Rusker's death. The better class of citizens have declared their intention of addressing a memorial to the Governor of the State, praying that proper steps should be taken at once to bring the perpetrators of this act to justice, while on the other hand the lynchers, who are backed by a powerful and lawless crowd, say that they will make any man who signs the memorial suffer.

WHAT "BALD HEADS" ADMIRE.

How Ballet Girls Attract Old Men into Front Seats.

(Subject of Illustration.)

The ballet girl appears to be as attractive as ever, and her performance generally draws the old men in large numbers. The dress circle we know to be the high-priced seats, but if an exorbitant tariff was demanded for a front seat in the pit the gay old man would not hesitate in securing that position.

A representative of The Mirror of Life visited a playhouse the other evening where a ballet performance was in progress, and took particular notice of the front seats in the pit. Without a single exception they were occupied by men well along in years, with heads bald as a billiard ball.

The old men appreciate well-formed women, and the less clothing you can put on the ballet-dancers the better they like it. See if what I say ain't true. Visit a performance of the ballet order most any evening, and you will note the people in the front seats. While the performers are on the stage they will appear shocked, like some blushing maiden or an old maid. Some will profess to conceal their faces behind a hat or a handkerchief, but the eye is ever on the figures prancing about the stage, and when that portion of the performance is at an end the old veterans will accept the first opportunity to leave the theatre. Let a speculative manager get up a legitimate comedy or drama and seek financial aid from people, and he will invariably find he has undertaken the hardest task of his lifetime; some snap show manager, however, will organise a combination of the "leg show" order, and capital is forthcoming without delay. The closer the approach of the female performers to nudity in doing their act the greater the sum of money which will be chanced on the venture. The financial man does not appear in the business portion of the show, but follows in its wake, and glories in the nightly display, feeling it a high honour to watch the performance from the flies, and to be in a position to chuckle his favourite under the chin after she has done her turn.

YANKEE FIGHTING GOSSIP.

Stanton Abbott to Return Home.

The Dixon-Griffo Match.

Purses for the Big Fight.

Ed. Smith's Bluff to Jackson.

Plimmer a Cuckoo.

BOSTON, February 21.—Stanton Abbott, the English light-weight, anticipates returning home early in March in order to train for a fight with Martin Denny, the Australian. He has been located at Providence since he defeated Jack Falvey there some time since. He is matched to box eight rounds with large gloves with Harry Gilmore at Chicago February 28 for a purse of 650 dols. The latter was at one time a very good man, but has been going back ever since Jack McAuliffe whipped him at Lawrence eight years ago.

Abbott is to meet Jimmy Dime at 9st 2lb in a finish fight at Boston, March 5, the winner to get a percentage of the proceeds derived from the sale of tickets. It is Abbott's intention to sail for England March 10.

Jimmy Dime is offered English backing for a match in London with Martin Denny, the Australian. The proposition made to the National Sporting Club by a bookmaker of the Victoria Club, Leeds, is to match Dime at 9st 4lb against Denny, and wager £200 a-side on the result, the National Club to add a purse.

George Dixon and Young Griffo of Australia have come to an agreement in Chicago to do battle if they are given the opportunity, Providing a purse to their liking presents itself, they are to add 4,000 dols. a-side to the 1,000 dols. which each side now has posted, and do battle between June 1 and 23. Just how much of a match has been negotiated, time will show. The Chicago agreement evidently puts both men under cover away from other challengers for the next five months. It leaves the all important essential of the fight to be found—to wit, the purse. Meanwhile Dixon is announced as booked to do battle, or do something, with Johnny Griffin at Madison Square Garden in New York, the latter part of March, for six rounds. The latter is the Gotham limit for Madison Square Garden pugilism. If the Dixon-Griffo match is genuine, it is a little singular, perhaps, that the Dixon-Griffin meeting should be made to anticipate it.

Aleck Greggains has a boxing class at Providence of Brown University students. He hopes to come to terms with the Twin City Athletic Cub for a meeting at Minneapolis with Dick Moore.

The situation at Providence for an immediate resumption of professional finish "endurance boxing" is not quite so promising as some might think, so that Boston and some of the western cities are the only places where a match can be decided.

The friends of "Chappie" Moran, of Coventry, are endeavouring to secure some first-class man at 7st 12lb to visit England and defeat George Corfield at Sheffield. They are anxious to get somebody to take Corfield's number down ever since Corfield defeated Moran. It is likely that Charley Kelly will cross the big pond to test the merits of Corfield. A meeting between them would result in a hard battle, and the winner would realise that he had been to a fight before he got through with his job.

Nothing definite has been decided on relative to the Corbett-Jackson battle, and it is doubtful if the managers of the men will be hasty in accepting any of the many offers made. A little strip of land at the extremity of Minnesota Point, which the Government has owned as a military reserve for a long time, or an island in the upper harbour between the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin, will be used for the fight if it can be brought to Duluth. The Duluth parties interested in the contest will act upon their counsel's advise in the matter. They have offered a 20,000 dols. purse and 5,000 dols. for training expenses.

The Columbian A.C. of Sarnia, Michigan, will make a big bid to have Corbett and Jackson fight at Sarnia. It is argued that the place would be an excellent point in case any attempt was made to stop the fight, either in Ontario or Michigan, as the principals could dodge back and forth between the two countries. The club has many rich members, and it is said that a purse of from 40,000 dols. to 45,000 dols. will be offered.

"PARSON" DAVIES says he will close his theatrical season at St. Louis on March 18. After that Jackson will immediately go into training for his battle with Corbett. The "Parson" further says that the next payment to Stakeholder Will J. Davis will be made on March 26. That will make 4,000 dols. upon each side. He thinks Corbett should be the favourite at 10 to 7 in the betting. The stakeholder has just returned to Chicago from Crown Point, Indiana. He is the owner of the Willowdale Farm, located a mile from that place. His visit was in the interests of the contest between the two big men. Davis thinks that the fight will be brought off in the Hoosier State, near Crown Point. The place is centrally located, has admirable railroad facilities, and the fair grounds could not well be improved upon. The enclosure will accommodate a vast crowd, and if the men box on a floating platform, as is proposed, they will at all times be in plain sight of every spectator on the grounds. Davis says:—

"I told the business men there that I would guarantee the principals, providing they would guarantee immunity from the State Government. Many attorneys think that the Supreme Court will not sustain the Governor, but will hold that the McHugh law, which the Governor signed, is constitutional. It is also claimed that the Roby cases have been postponed with the sole intention of preventing their hearing before the Supreme Court. The belief seems to be general that the decision of the lower court will be reversed.

"Capt. R. H. Wells, ex-Sheriff of Lake county, and one of the best-known citizens of the place, is the lessee of the fair grounds. The Captain is ready and willing to back his proposition to have the fight brought off, and cites the opinions of leading lawyers, who emphatically say that Governor Matthews is largely exceeding his authority when he interferes with the the statute laws of Indiana."

Champion Corbett in his week in Boston was lionised socially as has perhaps been the lot of no other man of his profession. Corbett's happy faculty wherever he goes is to leave an impression of surprise that so courtly, gracious, and well-spoken a fellow is by profession a mauler and puncher of other fellows. Enemies of Corbett's profession look upon him as they do on a particularly good fellow in a political organisation to which they are opposed.

Ed. Smith, of Denver, is making a great deal of talk about wanting a match with Peter Jackson or J. J. Corbett, but his talk does not create a favourable impression. He is by no means a world beater, and is merely making the talk to gain notoriety. He did whip Goddard, but it was by an unlucky blow, like a dog making a dying kick. Goddard was all but gone with sickness, and even in that condition he had the life hammered out of Smith, when the latter by a chance blow knocked the Australian out. No man was so surprised over the result as Smith himself, and since then he has done any amount of talking and no fighting.

Billy Plimmer has convinced the Chicago people of his ability to fight, because on February 5 he fought Johnny Van Heest to a standstill in three rounds. Griffo had a six round go at Van Heest and done less damage to Van Heest in six rounds than Plimmer did in three rounds. It looks very much as though Dixon and Griffo have arranged a match so as to avoid Plimmer. The match they have arranged, it is safe to say, will never be brought to an issue, but will shut out Plimmer until the time arrives for Billy to return to Birmingham.

The story that Honest John Kelly was to have received 1,000 dols. from the Duval A.C. of Jacksonville for officiating as referee of the late Mitchell-Corbett fight was news to many. It was generally believed that "Honest" John would referee the fight for nothing. Kelly is still bitter against Masterson, and if the two should ever meet there will be trouble. Kelly says that if Jackson and Corbett fight in England he will witness it.

This year the Amateur Athletic Union boxing and wrestling championships in New York will be contested March 19-22, for the first time in Madison Square Garden.

ELM.

WHAT THEY SAW.

Inquisitive Children Cause Family Ructions.

(Subject of Illustration.)

BESSIE and Tommy, aged respectively 5 and 7 years, are the pets of a Woolwich business man, who has upbraided his wife repeatedly for doing too much house work. On kissing the young ones good-bye the other morning he told them in a jocular way to keep a sharp eye on mamma and to see she did not hurt herself. Late in the afternoon on that day there was a visitor to the house—he had been a frequent visitor—and the mother ushered him into the drawing-room, closing and locking the door after entering. Bessie and Tommy didn't propose to disobey papa, but kept a sharp eye out. Our illustration will show what they saw, and when papa came home he was apprised of the fact that mamma had a caller who treated her so kindly, and even kissed her!

It is the same old story—they never speak as they pass by, and it is a question who will have possession of the two children. It looks as though papa will keep them in future.

THEY PENETRATED HIS DISGUISE.

The Probable End of West Virginia Outlaws.

(Subject of Illustration.)

THE Fleming brothers, the last of a band of West Virginia, U.S.A., outlaws have been caught at last. Three Virginia officers tracked them in a store in Boggs, a lonely mountain town, more than fifty miles from a railroad, the other day. Cal Fleming was shot instantly through the brain. Heenan, his brother, shot each of three officers. He was shot in his chin and had the fingers of his right hand shot away.

He shot Ed Hall through the back of the head, Doc Swindell through the neck, and John Branham through the right lung. Then he gave up. Cal Fleming lived long enough to ask to be brought back home, but was buried where he was killed. Heenan is in jail at Nicholasville, and will probably recover. Branham is dead and buried near Cal Fleming. Hall and Swindell, who are badly wounded, returned home. The Flemings were the accomplices of old Doc Taylor, who was hanged in Virginia last November for the murder of the Mullins family nearly two years ago. Taylor and the Flemings built a blind and waited for their victims a week in ambush.

They killed old Ira Mullins, his wife, his son, an idiot driver, and a hired boy. They shot the two horses and riddled the waggon. For a long time Taylor and the Flemings evaded the officers. Even after Taylor was caught and convicted the Flemings boasted openly of the murder and defied arrest. They loafed boldly around the cross-road store, planted a crop at home, and were about to vote at a county election when the volunteer police force of Big Stone Gap made an effort to capture them. They rode forty miles over the mountains one night, and charged the Fleming cabin at daybreak.

The Flemings had learned of their coming, and had gone off down the road an hour before. After that they worked their crops in woman's clothes, and were more careful, but officers swooped down on their farm one day. Cal was *captured in woman's clothes* and robbed of his disguise. Heenan came to his rescue, however, and drove the officers away. The Flemings got together a gang of seven, and then they tied red flannel to their shoulders and guns and terrorised the community.

Last summer a posse from the county seat tried capturing them again. They captured the mother of the boys when she was carrying food to them. They kept her prisoner in the woods all night and slipped upon the Flemings, who were waiting for her, at daybreak. The Flemings stood their ground against twenty men, and there was a sharp, short fight. Both of the Flemings were wounded and ran. Not an officer was touched.

Among the searching officers was John Branham, Ed Hall, and Doc Swindell, who lived in the Pound. The Flemings swore to kill these men. In self-defence, as well as for the reward, the three have been trailing the Flemings ever since. They went to Boggs, and through a tax-collector learned that the outlaws were making purchases in a certain store. Hall walked boldly in and caught Cal Fleming with one hand, presenting his pistol with the other. Heenan Fleming flashed out his weapon and shot Hall in the back of the head. Cal wrenched loose, but before he could draw and shoot a bullet from Hall's pistol crashed into his brain.

Heenan turned his attention to John Branham, who was levelling his pistol at him. Branham shot wild, and Heenan put one bullet in his right and one in his left side. Branham fell, and Heenan's deadly pistol was turned to Swindell, who from fright or slowness had not fired. Before he could shoot, Heenan had sent a bullet through his neck and Swindell started for the door.

Hall had turned now, and he and Heenan finished the fight. Hall's first bullet struck Heenan's chin and took away several teeth. A second ball followed, cutting nearly all the fingers off Heenan's right hand; a third shot made the outlaw's other hand helpless.

Heenan turned then and ran into a rear room. There was no way for him to get out, and he reappeared in the doorway with his mangled and bleeding hands above his head.

"I can't do any more, Ed," he said. "I give up."

Ed Hall is an ex-Kentuckian. Doc Swindell lives in the Pound near the Flemings, as does John Branham, the dead officer, who was known as "Gooseneck John" on account of his very long neck. The Flemings captured him once when they were hiding in the woods, and kept him with them two or three days. They pulled his moustache till his lip bled, they made him dance to the tune of bullets singing around his feet, and they tortured him in many ways. He thought they were going to kill him, and he warned them that if they did his brothers would kill the Fleming's father and mother and sister and burn the house to the ground. The outlaws knew this would be done and they let him go.

A small feud started, and Flemings and Branhams have been watching each other ever since. The outlaws have always sworn that they would never be taken alive since the Mullins murder. They have lived most of the time in the woods, travelling to and from Virginia and Kentucky.

Their favourite hiding place was a cave in a thicket of rhododendron, within fifty yards of the county road and a mile of home. A shepherd dog of extraordinary intelligence guarded them. If a stranger approached their home, or in the road, this dog would start in a run for the cave to warn them.

During the fight the outlaws had with the twenty officers the dog lay like a stone at Cal Fleming's feet. In this fight both the Flemings were thought to be mortally wounded, but they got strong enough to escape in women's clothes to Kentucky.

Ed Hall chased them back into Virginia, and he and the Branhams have been on their trail like bloodhounds ever since.

Boggs is more than 200 miles away and very inaccessible. The Flemings were said to be acting there as insurance agents.

Heenan Fleming, it is said, will be allowed to turn State's evidence if he gets well, and strong disclosures are expected from his testimony.

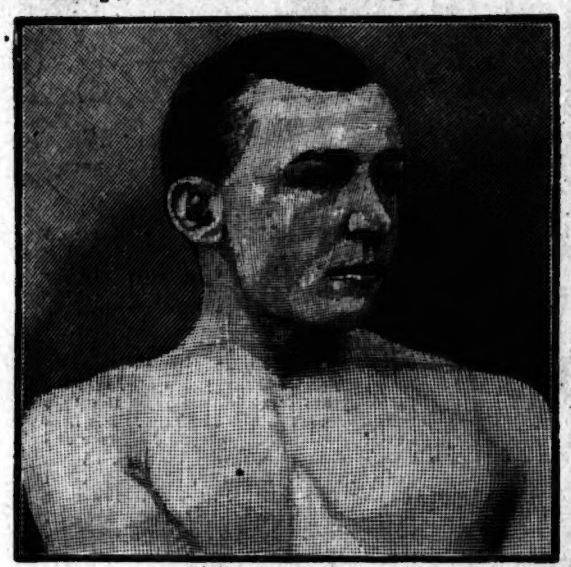
BILL ("CHESTERFIELD") GOODE.

A Clever Boxer and Club Manager.

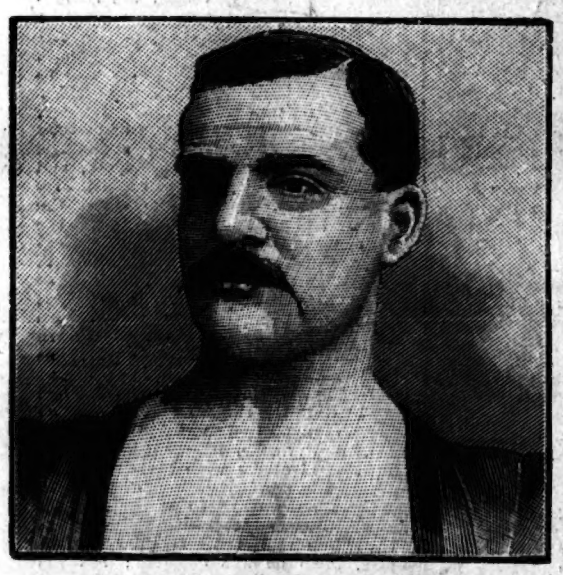
(With Portrait.)

THE Chesterfield School of Arms on Gerrard Street, is a favourite resort for patrons of the manly art, and many well-contested boxing matches are decided there from time to time. It is under the control of Bill, otherwise known as Chesterfield, Goode, who instructs the better classes boxing. He was born at the East-End of London thirty years ago, and for many years was considered the best middle-weight in the kingdom. His first appearance in a competition was for the Billingsgate Cup, which he won, at the Ship Tavern, Minories, beating Fred Walker in the final, in 1882. His next appearance was at the Old Mile-End Gate, on January 19, 1883, when, in a competition for a silver cup, he met Owen Hannen in the final, and the latter was declared the winner. The latter end of the same year he succeeded in getting a match with Dick Roberts, who had been the runner-up to Charley Mitchell, the winner in Billy Madden's Championship Competition. The contest was for endurance, Queensberry rules, for £50 a side, and to take place at the East-End, November 19. After fighting nine rounds in 33min 22sec, the gas was put out at a time when Goode was supposed to have the advantage. Eight days later the men met again, and after a battle, lasting one hour and thirty-three minutes, Goode was declared the victor. His next battle was with the raw 'uns, as he met Pat Perry, of Birmingham, at Chingford, Essex, on February 2, 1884, when, after fighting thirty-three rounds in one hour and five minutes, Goode again proved the victor. He was matched against Jim Barry in the old style for £50 a-side, at 10st 2lb. It, however, ended in a *fiasco*, as the men met at Cheshunt, Herts, and had only been in the ring a few minutes when the police made their unwelcome appearance, and Goode, likewise his father, and several others were marched off to durance vile, and being bound over to keep the peace, a draw had to be agreed upon. Shortly after he met Alec Roberts in a competition at the West-End School of Arms, when he was defeated; but his friends took but little notice of this, and tried to get him matched with Toff Wall, but without success, and he then met Jem Kendrick in a glove contest, at the Lambeth School of Arms, on May 7, 1886. This ended unsatisfactorily, as after the men had been boxing twenty rounds, the police put an end to the proceedings, and the money was drawn. Tom Lees, the Australian, was his next customer, the pair meeting at the Lambeth School of Arms, at 11st, on August 30, 1887, for £50 a-side, when, after fighting fifteen rounds, Bill was returned the winner. Lees not being satisfied, a fresh match was made for £100 a-side, at catch weight, which took place at Waite's Rooms, Brewer Street, on October 15, when, after fighting five rounds, the ring was invaded, the affair terminating in a draw. Following this he won Ben Hyams' All-Comers' Competition at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on April 14, 1888, beating Ted Burchell in the final; and in November of the same year beat Arthur Bobbett in a twelve-round contest at the Circus, Peter Street, Manchester; while in April, 1889, he again won Ben Hyams' heavy-weight competition, defeating Ted O'Neal, of Liverpool, in the final. October 17 of the same year he was beaten by Frank P. Slavin in five rounds, at Astley's Amphitheatre, for £400.

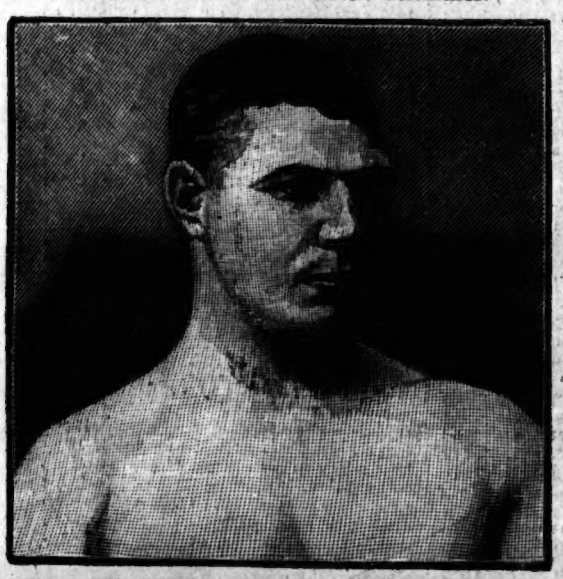
GERALD O'ROURKE, OF LONDON.
Champion Diver and Swimming Instructor.



BILL ("CHESTERFIELD") GOODE.
A Clever Boxer and Club Manager.



JULES PAUL GAUTIER.
Scientific Diver and Trick Swimmer.

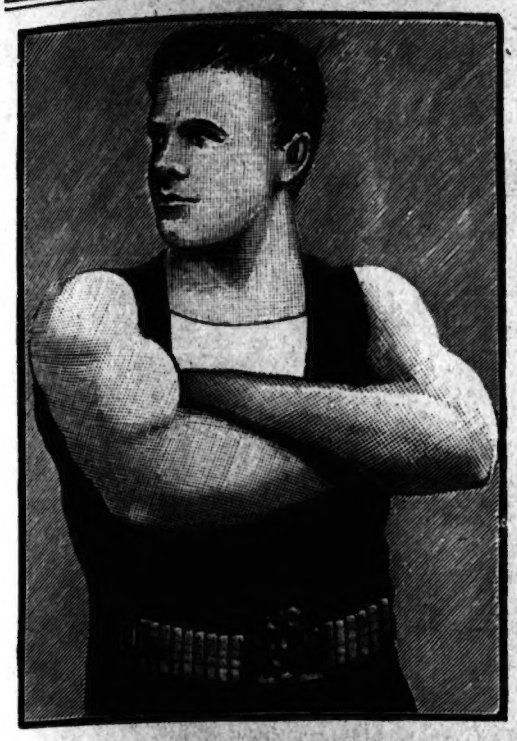


ED. SMITH, OF DENVER, COL.
The Heavy-weight who Challenges Jackson.

CALLED UPON TO SETTLE.
What Transpired at a Strand Cafe.

IT MADE THEM SICK.
A Cargo of Human Skulls and Bones Dumped at Cardiff.

COFFINS FOR THREE.
A Farmer's Strange Freak in Preparing for Death.



JOHN MARX.

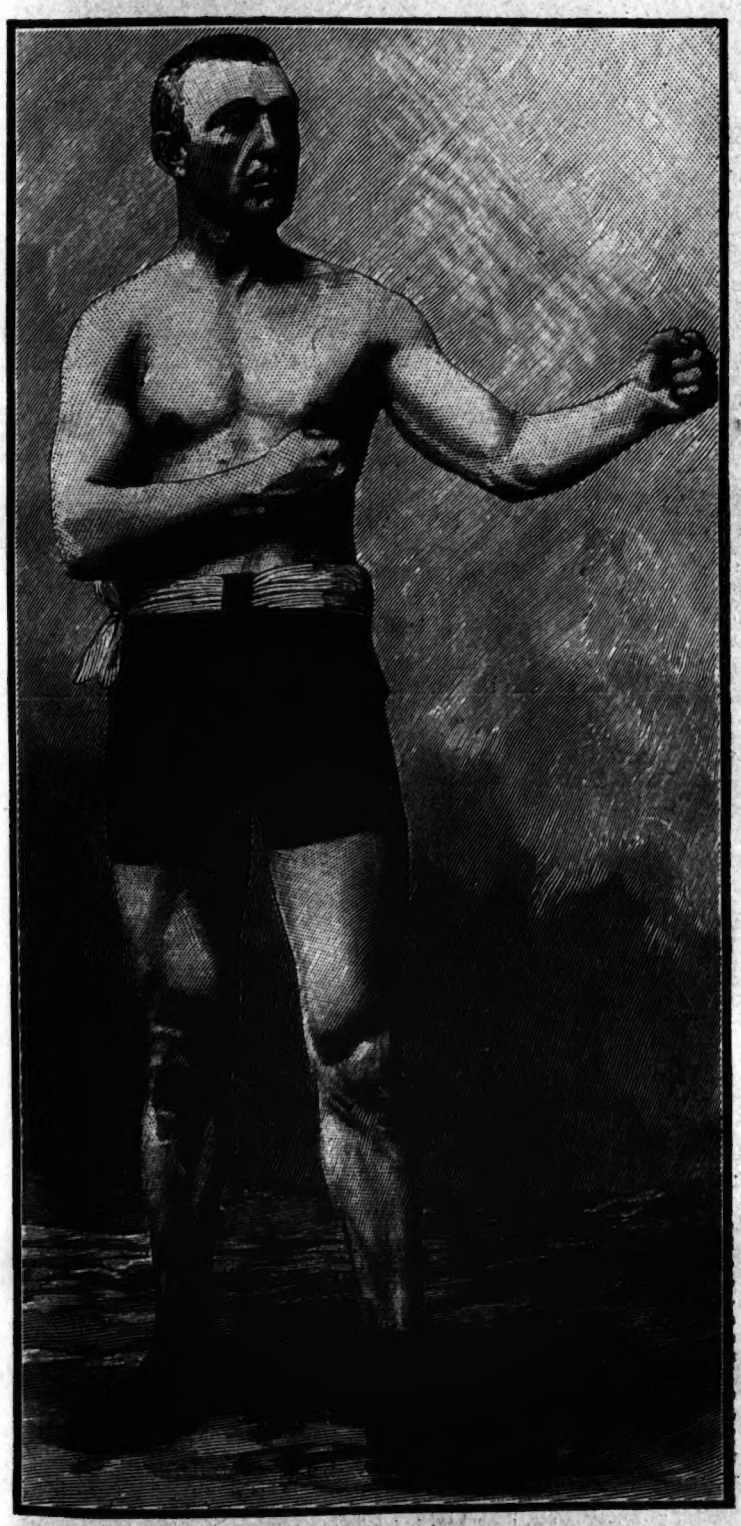
Famous Hercules, who Challenges the World at Weight-lifting.

MR. IKE DE COSTA.

A Brighton Sportsman and Bookmaker.

MR. FRED'K. SEYMOUR HORAN.

The Wonderful Runner of Cambridge University.



MICK DUNN.

The Australian 10st Pugilist, now in London.

ATTEMPT TO DESTROY A LAND MARK.

Boston's Unemployed Prevented from Wrecking the old State House.

HONEST SPORTS.

Shaving Contest.

The Mirror of Life Prize to be Competed For.

Cross Country Racing.

Base Ball for England.

Four men have entered in the shaving contest for The Mirror of Life trophy, Emblem of the Shaving Championship of the World. Those who have signified a desire to dispute the ownership of the coveted prize include James Rymer, Harford Street, Mile End; Jack Dwyer, a nephew of Teddy Wick, of the Globe Toilet Rooms, Chelsea; M. Cohen, 93, Hambury Street, Commercial Road; and Peter Moss, 256, Camberwell Road, S.E.

The entry of Teddy Wick and William Lloyd would make a complete list and bring about a competition which would certainly draw large audiences. Lloyd was seen the other day by one of the Rymer faction, and in response to an inquiry as to whether or no he would enter for the championship trophy he had but little to say further than to state he was prepared to "scrape faces" against any man in the business, providing rules of his adoption or framing were accepted to govern the contest. This is a pretty large world, and it is hardly possible that ideas advanced by Mr. Lloyd should rule the universe or be accepted as the only correct ones extant. The proprietors of The Mirror of Life propose promoting a championship contest for "face scrapers," and as it shall be left open to all comers, and under fair and equal rules to govern the same, the winner will certainly be justified in "dubbing" himself the premier shaver of the kingdom if not of the world. Lloyd claims he is about to leave for the States; if such is the case, and he has a desire to be acknowledged over there as the most rapid shaver of the United Kingdom, he should certainly enter an honest competition, and leave with a clear title, which he does not possess at the present time. It would appear that Rymer is the thorn in his side, and the fact that the Mile-Ender had a "fiver" deposited for several months in support of a direct challenge to Lloyd, and the latter's failure to even make an acknowledgment would convey the general impression that he fears defeat should he engage in any contest in which Rymer took part in.

* * *

The Manchester Racecourse on February 17 was the venue for the twelfth annual contest for the Northern Cross-country Championship, and owing to the wet dull weather there was only a moderate attendance of spectators. The Salford Harriers have previously won this event on four occasions, whilst Liverpool have held the honour four times, and Harehill Harriers, Yorkshire, once. For the race in question 19 clubs had entered, and as each could compete with nine members, six of which would count at the finish, the programme contained the names of 170 runners, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Cheshire being represented. The distance of the race was 10 miles. To complete this seven times round the course and a piece had to be traversed and 50 hurdles cleared. The following clubs started with their full complement of runners: Salford, Sefton, Broughton, Bradford Trinity; Crewe, Leeds Athletic, Nelson, Bolton, Sheffield, Warrington, whilst Oldham, North Lonsdale, Cheetham, and Stockport each sent eight competitors, and Liverpool and West Cheshire numbered seven men each. The starters comprised 143 runners, and, after settling down to their work, Harrison, of Broughton, led, followed by Wallerson, of Liverpool, Reeves, of Crewe, and Crossland, of Salford. At the half-distance the latter had run into second place, and a little later he took the lead, and running strongly, Crossland eventually won by 60 yards in 61min; E. Watterson, Liverpool, being second in 61min 12sec, and Ingham, of Bradford Trinity, third, 80 yards behind, in 61min 25sec. On reckoning up the respective positions of the clubs, it was found that Salford had won by one point only from Bradford Trinity, their respective aggregates being 79 and 80, whilst Bolton Harriers was third.

* * *

Despite the inclemency of the weather a large crowd assembled at Wembley Park, on February 17, to witness the deciding of the Southern Counties Cross-country Championship. The entry numbered eleven clubs, or one more than last year, the Brighton A.C. and Stoke Newington H. sending teams, while the Lea H. stood out. All but Brighton sent their full complement of twelve representatives, the total reaching 127. A good course, nearly all grass-land, was mapped out of nearly ten miles and a half in extent. Drenched with rain, and plastered with mud, the competitors struggled on to the finish, H. Watkins, S. Cottrell, G. Martin, W. Bullen, and W. Saward singling themselves out after half the journey had been covered. The Essex Beagles repeated their victory of last year, having six men finish in the first twenty-seven. No fewer than 40 were placed within five minutes of the leader, who proved to be H. Watkins, of the Walthamstow H. Cottrell, of the Thames Valley, was close behind, but the pair were a long distance ahead of the others. One of the surprises was the excellent performance of the Ranelagh H., who tied for the second place with the Finchley H., although S. Thomas, who twice previously had been first man home, did not count in for them. The placings of the clubs were: Essex Beagles, 74 points, 1; Finchley H., 132, †, Ranelagh H, 132, †, 2; Thames Valley, 178, 4; South London H., 206, 5; Walthamstow H., 210, 6; Blackheath H., 245, 7; Stoke Newington, H., 247, 8; Highgate H., 320, 9; Polytechnic H., 357, 10; Brighton, A.C., 0.

* * *

At a largely attended meeting of London and provincial baseball players at Holborn Restaurant, February 22, letters from several well-known theatrical celebrities and others were read, expressing their sympathies with and promises to support the objects of the London and National Baseball Associations, which bodies can now boast of the possession of challenge cups and other trophies to the value of nearly £200. It was reported that a ground, to be called the "London Baseball Park," had been leased at Balham, and that during the ensuing season baseball clubs will be allowed to play there free of charge. Matches on the League system will be arranged. Amongst the letters received was one from Mr. Henry Irving, in which he consented to become a patron of the association, and to give it all the support in his power.

* * *

The annual skating races of the Montreal Snowshoe Club took place at Montreal, Canada, February 10. The results were:—

Three-mile Race.—Won by J. S. Johnson, of Minneapolis; Norseng, of Norway, second. Time, 10min 44 4-5sec.

One Mile Professional Race.—Won by W. Breen, of St. John's; Olaf Norwedt, of Minneapolis, second. Time, 3min 25 2-5sec.

Half-mile Race.—Won by J. S. Johnson; Norseng, second. Time, 1min 36sec. Norseng fell on the last lap.

* * *

Jake Gaudaur, the sculler, is at his home in Ontario. He says he has received a challenge from Sullivan and Harding to row Hosmer and himself a double-scull race on the Thames, England. Gaudaur does not favour Hosmer for a partner, and replied to the challenge that he would accept it provided that he was allowed to select Hanlan.

* * *

M. F. Sweeney, of the Xavier Athletic Club, New York, champion high-jumper of the world, defeated P. J. Stingle at the St. Mary's Athletic Club, Boston, U.S.A., February 12. Sweeney allowed Stingle three inches, and jumped 6ft 3in. Stingle cleared 6ft, breaking his own record.

* * *

We are indebted to Messrs. Stearn, photographers, Cambridge, for the portrait of Mr. Frederick Seymour Horan, the wonderful runner of Trinity Hall.

* * *

Gerald O'Rourke again demonstrated his ability as a high diver at the Royal Aquarium, February 21, when he defeated George Wheatland in two successive trials.

* * *

Tom Blaylock, of Carlisle, gained three out of five falls from William Dees, of Barrow-in-Furness, in a wrestling match, Cumberland style, at the Montpelier Music Hall, February 17, for a purse.

* * *

Harry Hutchens, the fastest sprinter ever produced in England, in view of his retirement, is to be the recipient of a testimonial. Sir John Astley has interested himself in the affair, and chiefly through his efforts the L.A.C. Grounds at Stamford Bridge have been secured for Monday, March 26, when a pedestrian carnival will be held. Prizes will be given for three handicaps: 100 yards, 440 yards, and one mile open to the military only. During the afternoon Hutchens will attempt to beat even time for 100 yards, and the record for 250 yards.

* * *

Tom Cannon, the Liverpool wrestler, writes as follows:—"I have noticed a challenge in The Mirror of Life from George Rasso, of Germany, in which he claims 'I avoided a match with him at Berlin, I wish to state that during my engagement of one month at the Bock Braneri Theatre, Berlin, I had a standing offer of 500 marks nightly—equivalent to £25—to nothing for any man that would come forward and defeat me. He (Rasso) failed to meet me on the above terms. At the close of my engagement I returned home, as I had a match on at the time with Robert Marshall, of Garston. However, should he want to try his skill against me I will make him the same offer as I made M'Inerney, the match to be strictly private, for £100 a-side, the Press and a few friends to be present, the match to be Continental style, Græco-Roman, best two in three falls to win."

THE WATERLOO CUP.

Scenes and Incidents of the Big Event.

(Subject of Illustration.)

The Waterloo coursing drew the usual large crowd to the Altcar meadows this year; the cold weather forcing a postponement, the meeting was not begun till February 22.

At the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, February 20, the annual banquet preceding the draw was held, with Sir W. C. Anstruther presiding. It was the largest assemblage that has been seen on a similar occasion for several years. Judge Hedley acted in his usual capacity for the twenty-first year, and T. Bootiman filled the offices as slipper.

The Waterloo Cup, sixty-four subscribers at £25 each; winner, £500; second, £200; two dogs, £50 each, £100; four dogs, £30 each, £120; eight dogs, £20 each, £160; sixteen dogs, £10 each, £160—£1,240; the Waterloo Purse and Waterloo Plate, £360.—Total, £1,600. Sixty-four entries figured in the draw, and, as Fullerton had finished his career and Character had sustained an accident to his eye which precluded his contending, the Waterloo Cup was the most open one known for several years. The odds laid were therefore liberal, and quite a sum of money was wagered on favourite ones.

In our illustrations, sketched by our artiste, we show two dogs resting, two in pursuit of the hare, the judge mounted on his steed, and various incidents appertaining to the big event, which cannot help but interest those who are fond of the sport.

The final of the Waterloo Cup was decided Saturday, February 24. A summary of the deciding courses in the three events follows:

Deciding Course.—Count Stroganoff's b Texture, by Herschel—Tinsel beat Captain Ellis nd (Mr. Fletcher's) wf d p Falconer, by Herschel—Fine Sport.

Betting: 9 to 4 on Falconer. It was nearly 1.25 when Bootiman emerged from the shelter. The first hare, a weak one, he allowed to pass, but a clinker immediately followed, and to this the pair were slipped. Texture was in her stride like a shot from a gun, and was fully two lengths clear at one time, but the favourite, struggling desperately, had almost reached her neck when the hare bent to the right. This slightly favoured Texture, who scored the turn by about a length, and she came well round for the second. An exciting struggle followed, Falconer at one moment having the course about even, but the bitch never lost an opportunity, and when she terminated a fine piece of work by several smart wrenches and a meritorious kill she was a good winner.

On the night of the draw 1,000 to 30 was laid Texture, 1,000 to 150 Falconer.

The Waterloo Plate of £145, taken from the Cup Stakes, for the sixteen dogs beaten in the first ties of the Cup.

Deciding Course.—Mr. W. Thompson's bd w d Tasmania, by Restorer—Tinsel, and Mr. M. Fletcher's bd w b p Free Kick, by Herschel—Fine Sport, divided.

The Waterloo Purse of £215, taken from the Cup Stakes, for the thirty-two dogs beaten in the first round of the Cup.

Deciding Course.—Mr. M. G. Hale's bk d Happy Relic, by Herschel—Happy Omen, and Mr. L. Pilkington's w bd d p Pennegant, by Jim o' the Hill—Glenesk, divided.

ODDS AND ENDS.

"Parson" Davies says:—"Peter Jackson is not touching a drop of liquor, and believes he can beat Corbett. Jackson wagers 5,000 dols. of his own money. Lord Lonsdale cables that he is working hard to bring off the fight in London."

Davies met Corbett's manager yesterday respecting the Michigan Club's offer of 45,000 dols. Provided the club guarantees the amount, the contest will take place there.

* * *

Mr. Charles Hannam, of Bradford, who is well known on the Turf, and Mr. F. Hardy have agreed to shoot a match at pigeons for £2,500 a-side, and the contest will probably be brought off at the Manchester Gun Club in Whit Week. Five thousand pounds is stated to be the largest sum ever shot for in the annals of the sport, and the contest is sure to be a sensational one. Mr. Hannam and Mr. Hardy, it will be remembered, shot at twenty-one pigeons at Monte Carlo about three weeks ago for £800, Mr. Hardy winning rather easily. In a second match Mr. Hannam was successful. Mr. Hannam is a well-known figure among the sporting fraternity of Bradford, and is one of the few men who have been conspicuously successful in their speculations on the Turf.

Algy: "Hullo, old man! What the devil are you going round with only one trouser leg turned up for?"

Cholly: "Well, you see, deah boy, my early cable advices reported: 'Rain, followed by clear weather,' and I had to sort of compromise the matter, dontcherknow."

MR. FREDERICK SEYMOUR HORAN.

The Wonderful Runner of Cambridge University.

(With Portrait.)

Without question the best amateur runner from a quarter to three miles in the United Kingdom is Mr. Frederick Seymour Horan, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge University. He was born at Edinburgh, August 27, 1870, and was educated at Wellington College. Whilst attending that institution, he won two years in succession the mile race, and the two miles run three successive years, besides carrying off the honours in the cross country steeplechase, founded by Mr. Charles Kingsley, which is called after the founder the "Kingsley."

Mr. Horan entered Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in October, 1892, and contending in the Freshmen's sports, he secured first in the mile race in 4min 49sec, and won the three miles run in 15min 37sec. He next secured first, from the 60 yards' mark, in the Magdalene College two miles strangers' race in 9min 39sec. At the Trinity Hall sports he won the 440 yards race in 54 2-5th sec; half-mile in 2min 2½sec; one mile in 4min 36sec; two miles in 9min 53sec. The first three were run in one afternoon. In the spring of last year he won the mile strangers' handicap at St. Catherine's College games from scratch in 4min 33 4-5th sec., and the Queen's College three mile race from scratch in 15min 4sec. He next secured the three miles 'Varsity handicap from scratch in 15min 5 1-5th sec., and subsequently won a 'Varsity three mile race in 14min 45 4-5th sec. He also ran second to W. E. Lutyens in the 'Varsity mile race, won in 4min 21sec, covering the journey in 4min 23sec. Horan finished the season by winning the three miles race against Oxford in 14min 44 3-5th sec.

Last October he again scored a victory in the Magdalene College two miles strangers' handicap from scratch in 9min. 44 2-5sec., and won the three miles against the London Athletic Club in 14min. 52sec., defeating amongst others Sid Thomas and H. A. Heath.

In February of this year he contended in the Trinity Hall sports, securing first in the 440 yards in 51⅘sec., the half-mile in 1min. 58sec., and the one and two miles races. At Oxford, in the Trinity hall and University College, he won the half-mile in 1min. 58 3-5sec., and the mile in 4min. 29 1-5sec. February 15, he won the Selwyn College mile strangers' handicap from scratch in 4min. 23sec.

Mr. Horan gives promise of becoming he greatest runner in the world at distances ranging from 440 yards to three miles; he is a quiet, unassuming young man, and does not allow athletics to interfere with his studies.

THEY WANT ANCIENT HEF FRUIT.

The following will probably engage the attention of the police; it was being largely circulated in Walton, near Liverpool, during the early part of last week:—

Notice!—Drapers, Outfitters, and Milliners. Walton Early Closing Movement. In danger. Wanted, on Thursday evening, not later than seven o'clock, 5,000 rotten eggs and 5,000 persons (good shots), to discharge them at any establishment open after 5 p.m.—By Order.

EXIT THE MANDOLINE.

The plaintive air of the Mandoline pervaded the court of the County of London Sessions at Clerkenwell, February 23, when Sir Peter Edlin inquired solicitously into the management of the Leicester Square establishment known as the Mandoline Club. Joseph Croner, the proprietor, pleaded guilty to the numerous charges of all sorts of things calculated to disturb the morals of Her Majesty's subjects. Mr. Muir, the prosecuting counsel, recited many occurrences in the past by no means creditable to Mr. Croner. He told how the tuneful Mandoline was once the fragrant Gardenia; in 1893 he had to pay £140 for offences against the Excise Acts. In October last it was proposed to form a club called the Empire, but that did not come to anything. But the same month saw the birth of the Mandoline. It was shown that evening attire was the only qualification requisite to gain admittance, and it was a resort for loose women who went there to seek business. Champagne was sold at 25s. a bottle, and as high as £40 a night would be taken in for refreshments. Sir Peter Edlin sentenced Croner to four months' imprisonment as a second-class misdemeanant, and after the expiration of that time he would have to enter into his own recognisances in £200 to keep the peace for two months, and to find two sureties in £100. In default of this he must serve a further term of three months' imprisonment. Sir Peter said he was lenient because of Croner's age.

STAGE TALK.

Miss Lottie Collins is at present performing in California. Her dancing dress is described by a local journal as a marvel. "It is in soft China silk, bevel-pointed in shade stripes to represent a series of rainbows. When she stands quietly the skirt looks as if it were made of a succession of ribbons, but when it is taken up over the dress and whirled about in the dance the effect is magical. It is like a rainbow in a whirlwind.

* * *

The pretty New York prima donna, Miss Adele Ritchie, is rapidly attaining a horde of admirers, who quote her as the

"Queen of Clubdom."

Her latest and most ardent admirer, an enormously rich yachtsman living on Park Avenue, just goes out and buys operas, companies, &c., for Adele as other fellows buy rosebuds. She has the most beautiful head of radiant golden hair, sharing with Mrs. Leslie Carter the distinction of having the most splendid hair on the stage. Her complexion is brilliantly fair, and she very judiciously heightens the dazzling effect of both by wearing black velvet nearly always on the street.

* * *

The news that Modjeska is to leave the American stage after next season is sad for the admirers of that subtle and gifted artist. Her present leading man, Otis Skinner, will support Modjeska during her last season, and after that will star under Modjeska's present managers.

* * *

A theatrical case in which the allegations of fraud are in many respects similar to those which secured the conviction of George Gartley at the Old Bailey a short time ago was opened at Bow Street, February 20. The name of the defendant in this instance is George Edward Bishop, 164, Strand, who is accused of obtaining £10 10s. from Florrie Stevenson by false pretences.

Mr. Avory said defendant pretended to carry on the business of a theatrical agent, and would be charged with defrauding a number of persons. He started his business at No. 1, Catherine Street, which he left at the end of twelve months without paying his rent. From there he went to Hercules Road, Lambeth. He next went to 289, Kennington Road, and finally to 164, Strand. He inserted in various newspapers the following advertisement;—

STAGE.—Stage aspirants (theatre or music-hall) should send stamp for prospectus and practical hints, or call, twelve till five daily (later by appointment). Stage rehearsals daily; band rehearsals; sight singing; engagements, &c.; genuine professionals call.

The complainant and her sister not only paid their £10 10s. each by instalments; one of the girls was induced to pay him £30 for costumes. Another case which would be gone into was that of a young man who paid £10 10s. for lessons and £10 10s. for costumes, but all he had to show for his money was a pair of dancing pumps. Charlie Romain began to teach Mrs. Stevenson dancing. Witness described how she had traced defendant from place to place, and asked him in vain to obtain an engagement for her. On the last occasion he said he could not obtain an engagement for her, but would not insult her by telling her why. On one occasion her husband wrote to the defendant, and he replied, "I shall certainly do my best for a pantomime. With regard to advertisements for girls for pantomimes I shall discontinue them, as they are so unprincipled." Cross-examined, complainant said defendant told her she and her sister were not tall enough for a pantomime, but he secured an engagement for a shorter girl. He did not say when they applied for an engagement at Drury Lane that he had submitted their photographs.

Amy Rosa Piggott, sister of the last witness, gave corroborative evidence. Defendant never taught her anything. The case was adjourned, Mr. Vaughan stating that he would accept one surety in £25 for defendant's appearance.

* * *

Sandow, the strong man, carriss a slight-looking stick, which he twirls lightly between his fingers. He is fond of handing the stick with his hat to a waiter and watching his astonishment, for the stick is hollow and filled with quicksilver, weighing altogether thirty pounds. Sandow has accepted the position of director of a great new gymnasium in New York, and intends to take up his residence in that city.

* * *

M. Paderewski earned during last year no smaller sum than twenty-six thousand pounds. Just before he goes on the platform he dips his fingers into water almost too hot to be borne—to render them the more supple, it is supposed.

* * *

Ibsen, the great Norwegian playwright, is the idol of the people, and there is nothing they will not do for him. Not long ago a special train was provided when he wanted to send one of his manuscripts to a distant part of the country. He is one of the vainest men in the world, and he always carries a comb and a looking-glass in his hat.

* * *

Bessie Bellwood was arrested in New York City, February 21, charged with assault on her maid, Miss Lizzie Cook. She is just now under engagement at Koster and Bial's hall, among the other performers being Sandow, she having with her Miss Cook as dresser, &c. On February 20, according to current reports, some hitch occurred which resulted in angry words. It resulted in

Bessie Landing a Powerful Blow

on Miss Cook's face. The following morning a warrant was sworn against the aggressor, and in due course she was taken into custody and conveyed to the police station. She has been liberated on bail.

SEEN AND HEARD.

Walter Broadbridge has arrived in England from Johannesburg for a season's racing. As he won the one mile championship of South Africa last season, and is going to devote the whole of his time to racing in England, doubtless he will be heard of during the coming season. His mount will be a Mohawk safety.

* * *

A bad case of mob brutality is reported from Birmingham. While a crowd were maltreating a man named Horsley his wife went to his assistance. One of the crowd then belaboured her about the head with a poker, while half a dozen others jumped on her as she lay insensible. Her skull had to be trepanned. Her chief assailant, a man named Hickman, was remanded.

* * *

At Chatham on February 17 the referee in a football match between the Chatham and Casuals Club was seriously hustled by the crowd at the conclusion of the match. His clothes were torn, he was beaten with umbrellas and walking sticks, and mud was thrown over him. The attack appears to have been made because some of those in the crowd considered that wrong decisions had been given.

* * *

An extraordinary incident was witnessed at Liverpool Cemetery, February 20, at the close of the funeral of the late Mr. Aynsley Cook. There was a concourse of 3,000 or 4,000 spectators, and as the mourners moved away a raid was made on the wreaths and other floral emblems, which wore torn to pieces. Mdlle. de Lussan's beautiful harp was stripped of its rare flowers and left bare, and the same fate befel other emblems.

* * *

A panic was created in a travelling menagerie at Stockport on Saturday night. A lion tamer named Orenzo entered the lion's cage for the purpose of putting the animal through its performances, and had gone through a portion of the programme, when the lion suddenly sprang upon him and pinned him against the cage. A number of keepers, by means of different weapons, managed to rescue the tamer, but not before he was badly bitten on the arm.

* * *

An extraordinary incident occurred at the sitting of the Criminal Court at Buffalo, U.S.A., the other day. While a prisoner named Harris was awaiting the beginning of his trial on a charge of forgery he suddenly drew a pistol, shouted "Hands up!" and backed out of the court-room. No one had the courage to interfere, and Harris locked the door behind him and got away. The court-room was crowded at the time and the officials shouted from the windows to the persons outside to stop the fugitive, but the latter succeeded in effecting his escape.

* * *

Buffalo Bill (Colonel Cody), in company with two friends, entered Chamberlain's restaurant, Washington, U.S.A., February 17, for supper. At the table at which they took their seats there were sitting at the time Mr. Fred May and a friend. Mr. May, addressing Colonel Cody, said, "I have not seen you for ten years, but you remember that when we last met you did something which requires an apology; and that apology I demand from you now." Colonel Cody refused to give the required satisfaction, whereupon Fred May threatened to strike him, but before he could do so Buffalo Bill knocked him down, and then floored his friend, who attempted to come to his aid. May and his friend rose to their feet, but were knocked down a second time.

* * *

Nellie Thompson, who was 17 last birthday, was described on the charge-sheet at Bow Street, February 20, as a dancer, of Chesterfield Street, King's Cross. It appeared from the evidence that Mr. James Strain, of Pembroke Square, accompanied the girl to a questionable house in Catherine Street, when he fell asleep, and found on waking that she had left with his watch and chain. Detective Barton said that enquiries showed that the girl had been living in the service of a lady at Bradford from June, 1893, to January, 1894, when she left and came to London to go on the stage, but wound up as a street walker. A lady had undertaken to look after the girl, and the magistrate, after binding her over in her own recognisances to come up for judgment if called upon, discharged her.

* * *

A well-deserved sentence was meted out to Mrs. Eva Allingham, of Twickenham, at the Brantford Police Court, on February 19, when she was given four months in prison for maltreating her thirteen years old daughter, May. The child was beaten every day with sticks and broom-handles, had her mouth filled with soap, had camphor rubbed into her wounds, was thrown into cold water in cold weather, was kept without dinner, was scrubbed with scrubbing brushes, whipped with knotted rope, and subjected to various other forms of cruelty. She had to take money to get food with, and twice ran away from home. The case was ultimately put into the hands of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, who prosecuted. The defence was that the child was unruly, and merely "corrected."

* * *

A horrible crime occurred the other day at the little village of Rekesely, near Temesvar, in Hungary. Thérèse Kleitsch, an old woman who lived in poverty, had long been alleged by the superstitious villagers to possess the power of a witch. Misfortunes in the village were attributed to her alleged evil influence, and the outbreak of an epidemic among children was declared to be her work. She was also supposed to have cast a spell over the stables, with the result that many horses and cattle recently died of disease, and this apparently incensed her neighbours. A plot was therefore formed in the village and a terrible vengeance carried out. The unfortunate woman was seized, gagged, and after being flogged, was crucified. The police have opened an inquiry, but have not yet succeeded in discovering the authors of the abominable crime.

* * *

As his wife took to drink (according to the story told in the Divorce Court February 22) Mr. Bird separated from her, and she went to live on an allowance from him at her sister's in Camberwell Grove. The co-respondent, a man named Williams, was a fellow-lodger there, and it was alleged that improper conduct took place between them. A curious feature in the case was that the information which led to the petitioner taking proceedings came from the sister of the respondent, who was also the chief witness. Miss Burnside, the lady in question, said she frequently noticed acts of impropriety between her sister and the co-respondent. He used to take her on his knee and kiss her frequently. When witness objected they laughed at her scruples, and said they were Mrs. Grundyism and the ideas of a disappointed old maid.

A decree nisi was pronounced.

* * *

Five thousand unemployed gathered on the Boston Common, at Boston, U.S.A., February 20, and, after listening to speeches by several Socialists and Anarchists, marched to the State House, where a deputation of two of the leaders visited Mr. Greenhalge, the Governor, and demanded employment for those who were out of work.

The Governor, in reply, addressed the crowd, saying that he would recommend the Legislature to take action in the matter.

One of the leaders, named Swift, subsequently spoke in Doric Hall, threatening the Governor and the Legislature. The hall was packed with people, and after the meeting a large crowd surrounded the Capitol, where the Legislature was sitting, and raised cries of "Down with the Capitol," "Kill the police." The crowd was finally dispersed after being appeased by a message from Mr. Meyer, Speaker of the House of Representatives, announcing that it had been decided to appoint a committee to consider ways and means of relieving the distress.

* * *

The curious matrimonial suit of Moses Freidman was decided February 20, before Mr. Justice June, in London. He came from Russia to England in 1883, and was a cigarette maker. Now he was in the jewellery business, and his profits were £600 a year. He met his wife through a Mr. Muntz, who, Mr. M. Hall said, was a professional negotiator of marriages among the Jewish community. Petitioner now sought a divorce on the ground of his wife's adultery with Mr. James F. Robertson, the principal partner in the firm of Derby and Company, jewellers and refiners, of Clerkenwell Road.

One great source of trouble, according to the wife's case, was the petitioner's father and children, who came from Russia to visit him in February, 1892. Not only, said the wife in a lettor which was read in court, were Mr. Freidman, sen., and the two children he brought in a state of dirt and neglect, but at tea they tore their food with their hands and spat the bones on the floor. The father picked his teeth with a fork, and it being the night before the Sabbath, he spent the night walking about in his heavy boots reciting prayers, preventing her from getting any sleep.—The jury awarded Freidman £350 damages.

A SAFEGUARD AGAINST MURDER.

Rules laid down by a Sheriff ensures Peace in a new Western Town.

BUNCOED MILLIONAIRE GOULD.

A Precious Pair of Blackmailers who have made them all Settle.

WHAT "BALD-HEADS" ADMIRE.

How Ballet Girls Attract Old Men into Front Seats.

SAVED HER SISTER FROM DISGRACE.

An Oily-tongued Reprobate Baulked in an Attempt to Ruin a Girl.

AROUND THE RING.

Here and Abroad.

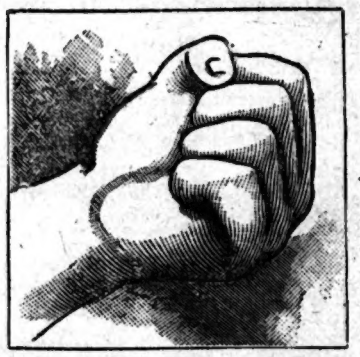
Palmer Receives Forfeit.

Soldiers in Competition.

Burge to Meet Tracey.

A Belt for Corbett.

Fitzsimmons' Proposed Visit.



The Left Fist of James J. Corbett, Champion Heavy-weight Pugilist.

According to our Chicago advices, Billy Plimmer has bested in three round bouts Johnny Van Heest and Solly Smith, and clearly showed that in finish battles the pair would stand no earthly chance with the clever Birmingham boy.

Griffo, the Australian, who is matched to fight George Dixon in June, met both of these men, and in six round meetings failed to show his superiority as clearly as Billy did in half that number of rounds. If Griffo, on public form, is good enough to fight Dixon, then Plimmer must be a much better man than either one. A match between Dixon and the Birmingham lad should be well worth a long journey to witness, and it is to be hoped that they will accept a purse of £500, and decide the championship at the National Sporting Club rooms. The Mirror of Life trophy of 200 guineas should certainly be worth their consideration, and the winner could safely say that he had received the most expensive and useful trophy ever offered for a ring contest. Plimmer declares his intention of returning home this spring, and no doubt the law suit which his late manager, Louis Waldron, has entered for breach of contract will tie him up, so he will hasten his departure from the States. It is hardly likely any club over there would offer as big a purse as the National Club for the pair, and, besides, the prejudice against boxing is too strong in the States for any syndicate of sports to attempt to promote a finish match between little men. In Boston they countenance finish fights between "pugs" of but little reputation, for small purses, and an offer for two prominent men to meet would close up that town for scrappers.

It is hard to believe that Griffo and Dixon will ever come together except it might be for a few rounds where a large "gate" could be had. Griffo is a very good man, and is at his best when down to 8st 8lb. While he is very clever and shifty, his blows appear to lack the driving power requisite to knock out a good man unless he lands on a vital spot. He has failed to prove himself a world-beater even in his own town—Sydney—and there he was always backed up by as tough a mob of the unwashed as one could muster together in a day's travel. Griffo's "push" has saved him several times from a thorough dressing down, and now that he is in the States he will be forced to display ability as a fighter to show his nose to the front.

* * *

What under the sun is the matter with the trio of Australian pugs—Burge, Napier, and Dunn? When they struck this country they were each prepared to accept an engagement to meet all comers at even weight. Burge appeared to receive the most attention, and for a spell challenges were hurled at him thicker than flies around a molasses barrel. Notwithstanding the horde of challenges, the cast-iron man sunk into oblivion. Surely were he to arrange a match a suitable purse would be forthcoming, but possibly his ideas are so high that Manager Fleming feels delicate about offending the Antipodean. Dunn and Napier met Londoners in friendly bouts at the National, and while the spectators did not criticise them openly, anyone could notice that they were doing a powerful lot of thinking, because they displayed no inclination to give either of them a hand at the end of round three.

Had either or both shown any marked ability there is no doubt but that purses would have been offered for the visitors to meet our "cracks" at even weight.

* * *

The question now arises, will Stanton Abbott and Martin Denny surely fight for a National Sporting Club purse? The Abbott faction are ready, but Denny suggested that the naming of the club be left in blank, so that the various organisations can bid for the match. If managers of rival clubs display common sense they will leave the contest severely alone. The National Club was the first in the field with a respectable offer, and it would hardly be just for other clubs to start a bidding contest just to satisfy any pugilist. It was the bidding of one club against the other in the States which invited police interference, and caused club after club to close its doors on fistic contests. At one time the rivalry amongst the New Orleans clubs was so intense that the members of the respective institutions were like a parcel of hungry wolves, and it finally simmered into a general close down on all.

Dan Creedon's Manager, Col. Hopkins, the theatrical man, is incensed over Bob Fitzsimmons' refusal to accept a 12,000dol. purse, and strongly intimates that Bob has fairly crawled into a hole and drawn the hole in after him. We can hardly believe that a man of Fitzsimmons calibre would make a display of weakness before any man of his weight that breathes, and attribute the "brick top's" refusal to fight for less than 15,000dols. to the fact that he has a bad case of swelled head. He acknowledges that he is "dead broke," and still he turns his nose up at 12,000dols. There is not a fighter in England who would refuse that sum for half a dozen matches, and take his chances on winning the whole six to get the "plum."

* * *

Dick Burge, the clever North Country pugilist, is rapidly gaining his health and strength, and will soon be prepared to undergo a course of preparation for a fight. One who is closely identified with Dick claims that the cause of his recent indisposition is due to undergoing too stringent a course of training in order to get down to weight. We are aware of the fact that he has taken matters pretty easy for some time, and must have taken on considerable flesh. Jumping from a life of ease to one of severe training is hardly compatible with the laws of nature. There is no doubt but that Burge tried to do too much in too short a space of time, and he may be thankful that his breakdown did not occur on the eve of the battle which he was matched to participate in instead of during the early course of training. He has no doubt realised the folly of jumping from an idle life into one of severe training, and when he contracts his next match he will display better judgment.

Jack E. Dempsey, ex-champion middleweight, will soon strike our shores, and when he gets here Burge will be his bone of contention. The pair in good trim would make a grand fight, and be the incentive of a large amount of money pending on the result. Dempsey claims to have fully recovered his health, and believes in himself to cope with any 10st man alive. He will reach here with champion Corbett, and the Corbett party will supply him with the backing for any match he chooses to arrange.

* * *

Pedlar Palmer, of Canning Town, and Bill Mortimer, of Upton Park, were to have fought twenty rounds at the National Sporting Club, February 19, for £50 a-side, and an added purse of £50. The men were restricted to 7st 6lb each in weight. Mortimer sprained his foot whilst training, and was compelled to pay forfeit to Palmer who scaled within the prescribed weight and got the stakes.

The members turned out in full force to witness the battle and rather than disappoint the large gathering, Manager Fleming arranged four six-round contests which were decided that evening. In the first one G. Firmin, of Deptford, and Ted Mortimer, of Clare Market, faced each other. Some very good exchanges occurred and at the end of the prescribed limit of rounds Firmin showed a decided advantage, and was given the award.

E. Stanton, of Stratford, and Darkey Edwards, of Shoreditch, were the second couple paired off. At long shots Stanton, who bore a striking resemblance both in the face and the get-up to Palmer, had no chance, consequently he went in for half-arm business. Here the little man was much more at home, and during some ding-dong work he was seen to much greater advantage. Edwards fell off a lot in the fifth round, and Stanton, staying well, got the better of this and the sixth, and finally he secured the referee's award. The third contest was between Bill Eyles, of Islington, and Jack Farley, of Birmingham. The latter forced the fighting, but failed to outdo his opponent, who kept his left in constant play. They kept pretty busy the fourth and fifth rounds, Farley doing good work at close quarters. He fell weak, however, in the sixth round, and Eyles, having a decided lead, was given the decision.

Pedlar Palmer met A. Wood, of Woolwich, in the last contest. The latter was decidedly worsted in the opening round, notwithstanding he was by far the bigger man. In the second round he improved, and jobbed Palmer twice heavily on the mouth, and got the right home heavily on the head. This riled Palmer, who planted his right hand with a bang on Wood's ribs, and repeated the dose as the Woolwich representative tried to equalise matters. Then Canning Town took matters easily, and Wood scored a few points, his left glove finding a resting place between Pedlar's eyes. There was not such a lot in it as they stood up for the last time. Palmer now fought with any amount of vim. A flush hit on the mouth drove Wood to the ropes, and Pedlar swung a vicious right, which, fortunately for his rival, missed its mark. Up to the call of time Palmer pegged away, and at the end the verdict was in his favour.

* * *

The recreation room at Wellington Barracks was crowded on February 21, to witness competitions promoted by the Brigade of Guards. Three competitions confined to members of the army and a six round professional battle made up the evening's programme.

There were four entries for the 10st competition, and in the trial bouts Drummer Collins beat Private Keane, and Private Atkins outboxed Private Cowling. They met in the final bout. Collins commenced in a determined fashion and Atkins was quickly fought to the ropes. A determined set-to followed. Atkins did his best to stave off the attack, but the drummer would not be denied, and sailing away at top speed he made matters very warm indeed for his opponent. If anything, the pace was faster when they took the middle for the second time. Collins was again the aggressor, and though Atkins stood his ground for a minute, Collins finally wore him down, the result being that Atkins retired just before the end of the second round.

A competition for 11st 4lb men produced four entries, Private Jarvis and Private Brannen coming off successful in the trial bouts, were put together for the final. Jarvis had the best of the first round. In the second Brannen lost his head, and fought in wild fashion. Jarvis, on the other hand, showed in better style than in the first round. Quicker with both hands and feet, he played a rare tune on his rival. In the last bout Brannen, when too late, fought like a tiger, and some ding-dong business was seen right up to the finish. Jarvis got the decision. For the heavy weights Private Janes and Private Day were left in the final. It was blow for blow right up to the finish of a desperate tussle. Janes hit the straighter of the two, but Day put a lot of steam behind his deliveries. There was no thought of defence on either side, and the way the men fought created the greatest excitement. It was simply a question of who stayed the longest. Day began to slow down towards the close of the second round, and Janes doing some grand work in the last, just managed to pull through and win. The professional match was one of six rounds between Jim Keating of Marylebone, and Jack Loader of Barnsbury for a purse. The former was the aggressor, and using his left he kept Loader employed throughout the first round. The Marylebone representative showed better defence than his opponent, and aided by a continuous lead he had gained an advantage when half the battle had been fought out. Loader made matters even in the next bout, and coming with a wet sail in the fifth he more than held his own from here to the end. At the finish the judges disagreed, and the referee ordered an extra round. In this Keating did the best work and won.

* * *

There is every prospect of a match being arranged between Dick Burge, the champion English pugilist, and Tom Tracey, the Australian champion, now in the United States. Mr. Joe Harris, the Australian bookmaker, who recently arrived from the States, called at the office of The Mirror of Life, February 22, and expressed an anxiety to arrange a match with Burge as soon as possible. Mr. George Drake, of Leeds, was communicated with, and in response to a telegram that gentleman stated that Burge would fight Tracey for £1,000 a-side and the best purse offered by any reliable club. Mr. Harris sent a request to name a day of meeting at The Mirror of Life office for the purpose of drafting articles and posting the first deposit. Burge has been attending the Waterloo Cup Meeting, and soon as he returns to Leeds he will be prepared to name a time for a meeting to consummate the match.

"I want to get on a match for both Tom Tracey and Dan Creedon," said Harris, "and am sure I'll not be hard to please in the matter. Tracey would like to meet Burge at 10st, and will agree to give or take a pound or two in weight. Failing to arrange with Burge, I would look to Harry Nickless for a match. I'll make it for £500 or £1,000 a-side and the largest purse obtainable. I'll consent to any reasonable proposition, because I am desirous of getting a show for Tracey to come here."

"In regard to Pritchard," said Harris, "I'll pit Dan Creedon against him for the best purse offered, providing a side bet of £500 or £1,000 is made on the result. There is no prospect of Creedon getting on a match with Bob Fitzsimmons in the States, because the last-named has too high ideas as to what the purse should be. Ted Pritchard talked a short time ago about being willing to meet Creedon, providing the contest should occur here; now, I'm prepared to take him at his word, and if he wants fight he has only to notify me, appointing a day of meeting at The Mirror of Life office, and I'll be on hand with the money prepared to put up my end. If either or both of these matches are arranged, I would suggest that the club offering the purse should deposit a reasonable sum as a guarantee that the affair will occur. Fitzsimmons declined a 12,000 dols. purse to meet Dan Creedon, and I am convinced there is no hope for Creedon in getting Bob to come to terms. Had they agreed to meet the match would have taken place at Havana, where they countenance bull-fights. A club there guaranteed the purse, and there would never have been a question of police interference from that source."

* * *

A movement is now on foot in New York city to present to Champion James J. Corbett a belt that will be worthily emblematic of his championship. There is no trophy now representing that title, nor was there ever a challenge trophy belt that represented the heavyweight championship of America under Queensberry rules. The diamond and gold belt presented to Sullivan at the Boston Theatre, August 8, 1887, was purely a personal tribute. The stipulation under which subscriptions for it were obtained was that the belt "shall not be transmitted to future holders of the American or the world's pugilistic championship, but it shall be held by John L. Sullivan or such of his lineage as he may designate, as a token of the pride of his fellow-citizens in his all-conquering career." There has been for some time a substantial agreement among leading American patrons of boxing sport that there should be an American heavyweight championship belt, paid for by popular subscription, and to be presented and accepted with the condition that it must be held and defended as a perpetual American championship trophy, subjecting the holder at all times to challenge and to forfeiture of the belt and the championship title for failure to match, or evasion of his challengers.

* * *

Bob Fitzsimmons says that it is highly probable he will come to England and try to arrange a match with some good man in his class. Fitz claims that he is losing time and money remaining in the States doing nothing. He says that he is anxious to fight anyone, Dan Creedon, or any of the aspiring middle-weights who have challenged him lately. He is of the opinion that there is a better chance of securing something to do in England.

"I have not made up my mind when I shall go," says Fitz, "but it will be inside of a month at the latest. I don't like to rely upon others for my livelihood. If I can't get on a go in England I will seek employment at my trade, blacksmithing. I received word some time ago from the National Sporting Club of London that they would hang up a good-sized purse for a contest between myself and Ted Pritchard. Perhaps it still holds good. If the match between Corbett and Jackson takes place abroad I will witness it."

* * *

Charles E., better known as "Parson," Davies, manager and backer of Peter Jackson, the coloured heavy-weight champion, in a letter to the Mirror of Life, says:—"It is difficult to say just where Jackson and Corbett will fight; but by the middle of March some definite arrangement will be made. Jackson is drawing immense crowds in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' in fact, we are turning people away almost every night. Over 23,000 people paid to see the show at Baltimore. It is possible we may bring the troupe to England for a tour, but as yet that has not been decided upon. I am going to Mount Clemens, Mich., where a large purse has been offered for the fight, and from there I go to Toronto, where I expect to meet men from Orilla, Ontario, who are bidding for the contest. They say they they have an island near Orilla that would be free from interference. It is one thing to offer a purse for the fight and another to post a 10,000dols. guarantee that the club making the bid is able to pull it off. The latter condition will be insisted upon. I expect to hear from England next week regarding what can be done there. We will go where the largest purse is offered; but we must have a guarantee before the men begin training."

* * *

A cable dated New York, February 19, states that A. H. Linder, of Harvard, who has been prominent in sparring and football circles, in a friendly bout with a student was knocked out. He remained for five days unconscious and then died. The autopsy revealed a clot on the brain.

* * *

Adrian Smythe, 34, High Street, Putney, is making a specialty of photographing noted boxers, athletes, and oarsmen. Quite a number of prominent men have already been photographed there.

* * *

Pony Moore, his wife, and Mrs. Mitchell sailed from New York February 21 for Liverpool. Charley Mitchell will prolong his stay in the States, but will probably return some time in March.

At North Middlesex Hall, Upper Edmonton, February 19, W. Tucker was beaten in an eight-round contest by H. Harrison. In a six-round battle, T. Gower beat Charley Marshall. In addition to the contest six lads appeared in a 9st competition. The final was fought out between A. G. Grokin (of Edmonton), and T. Hancock (Tottenham). The latter was receiver-general, and cried content half-way through the second round.

* * *

Rather an amusing paragraph appeared in the *Sun* the other day, which will no doubt make the sports smile. It reads as follows:—"'Pony' Moore has been interviewed in New York, and after various observations on American law, of which he had no high opinion, drifted into the subject of diamonds. 'If,' he said, 'you admire the stone in my shirt front—ah, I see you do—you should see these!' He retired stealthily to a corner, and, taking out a small brown leather purse, lifted from it two gems, saying proudly, 'There is a diamond worth 2,500 dols, and there is another worth 1,000 dols. See the difference? I have a fine diamond ring from the Prince. Know the Prince? Well, I should say I do. We are great friends. I am the only one in London who can dine with a lord, drink with an aristocrat, talk to a mechanic, and go into a thieves' den and be cordially received by all.

* * *

John Gallagher, probably better known under his cognomen of "Liverpool Jack," who once had a battle with John Morrisey, died from heart disease in Brooklyn, February 5. He was seventy-four years old, and in his time was regarded as one of the foremost ring fighters of the Eastern States.

* * *

An assault-at-arms took place at Prof. Roberts' Boxing Rooms, Bury, February 20. The principal event was to have been a ten-round contest between F. Mosedale, of Bury, and Rigby, of Bolton, but the latter failed to materialise, and Mosedale indulged in three spirited rounds with his brother. An exhibition spar between Roberts' midgets was followed by Pat Rafferty and Costello, two local lads, who contested eight rounds for a silver cup. At the call of time Costello went in for slugging, and a lively bout was the result. In the second round he drove Rafferty all over the ring, pounding him severely. Rafferty was no hog, however, and knew when he had enough, consequently he quit at the end of the round and Costello got the prize.

Wickstead and Etcheels, local men, were paired off to go ten rounds. For three rounds it was a lively bout with honours even, but in the fourth round Wickstead was pounded all over the ring and hoisted a signal of distress, leaving the award in favour of Etcheels. Sam Higgins, of Manchester, was referee, and J. Barnes, of Bury, timekeeper.

* * *

Prof. Roberts will give prizes for a series of glove contests, to occur at his boxing rooms in Bury, March 13.

* * *

Jem Burge, the Australian, is booked to box six rounds with Ted Burchell at the Kennington Social Club March 2.

* * *

William, alias "Cock" Pearson, a Scotch light-weight, was on February 22, at the Aldershot Petty Sessions, sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment, with hard labour, for stealing a set of brass mounted harness from his late employer.

* * *

Mr. Sam Nixon, the Liverpool sporting man, has been spending a few days in London, the guest of Frank P. Slavin. Sam has fully recovered from his recent illness, and on his return to his hostelry, the Flat Iron Hotel, he will be prepared to entertain his friends.

* * *

Johnny Griffin's meeting with George Dixon in New York city, dated for February 25, has been postponed to Wednesday, March 21. It is to be at catchweight for a division of the gate receipts, and for six rounds, or as near that number as the authorities permit.

* * *

Dan Creedon ran against a snag on Wednesday night, February 7, when he met the Harlem Coffee Cooler at Miner's Bowery Theatre in New York. Mr. Craig, who hails from Harlem, and has proved a cooler to so many people in the squared arena, gave Mr. Creedon from Australia a great surprise, and stayed the four rounds, with a great deal to spare up his sleeve. The spectators hissed the referee for not giving Craig the decision.

* * *

Charley Kelly, of New York, put Jimmie Kaveney, champion 7st 12lb boxer of New England, to sleep in less than one round at Boston, U.S.A., February 12. The men sparred cautiously for an opening at first, when suddenly Kelly landed a blow on his opponent's jaw which settled the battle. Kelly says he is open to fight all comers, including Billy Plimmer. It is probable Kelly will come to this country to take on George Corfield, of Sheffield.

* * *

Joe Harris, the Australian book-maker, and Arthur Levinson, of New York, called at the office of The Mirror of Life, February 20, and requested us to state that he would match Dan Creedon to fight Ted Pritchard for £1,000 aside and a purse, and Tom Tracy against Dick Burge or Harry Nickless at 10st for a similar amount of money. Harris and Levinson will remain here an indefinite length of time, and when the flat racing season opens they will make a book on the course. Harris states that the authorities have been making a general clearing out in New York, closing up the bawdy-houses and driving the prostitutes out of the city limits, concert halls have been raided, and gambling establishments of every description sealed as tight as a drum. This was brought about owing to a change in political power. Even book-makers who made a starting price book by accepting wagers in the streets or alley ways have been corralled and a heavy fine imposed.

"If Pritchard's party will bet me £1,000 on a match with Dan Creedon," said Harris, "I'll have him come here without demanding any expense money. Jimmy Carroll wants to meet Creedon, but everybody knows that Jimmy has been on the 'shelf' for several years and can't possibly be capable of getting back to his old form again. It is probable quite a number of the Yankees will seek matches on this side of the water a little later on, all that is necessary to start them drifting this way is a few offers of reasonable purses to meet the English talent at even weight."

* * *

There has been bad blood between Young Mitchell, the Pacific Coast champion middle weight and Jack McAuliffe, the champion light weight, ever since the latter officiated as referee in the eight-round contest between the former and Jim Ryan, the Australian, some time ago.

McAuliffe had made preparations to leave San Francisco, February 11, for New York city. On February 9, in company with three others, he called upon Mitchell and stated that as he was about to go east he had called for the purpose of squaring things in order that they might part friends. McAuliffe's amicable overtures were received in friendly spirit.

The party then visited a number of places in town, and early the following morning, as they were leaving one of them, McAuliffe, without a moment's warning, struck Mitchell a terrific blow in a most cowardly manner. The others took a hand in the proceedings, and Mitchell was thrown to the sidewalk, where all of the pugilistic contingent began to beat and kick him.

Officers were attracted to the scene, and placed all parties under arrest. There is no doubt but that the affair was premeditated, as upon several recent occasions McAuliffe has threatened to "do up" Young Mitchell, and has boasted among his friends that if he had an opportunity he would punish the Californian in a way that the latter would not soon forget. Young Mitchell's injuries prevented him from appearing in court.

* * *

George Lavigne, of Saginaw, proved himself to be more than a match for Albert Griffith, or "Griffo," the Australian feather-weight champion. The men came together in an eight-round contest with 5oz gloves at Chicago, U.S.A., on February 11. Lavigne scaled 9st 2lb, and "Griffo" 9st 7lb. Lavigne, however, was in better condition.

Lavigne started in to rush matters from the tap of the gong, but "Griffo" was cautious, and showed good generalship. Both men swung a good right, giving and taking face and body blows in the early part of the contest. Lavigne delivered some clever upper cuts. "Griffo" began to show signs of exhaustion in the seventh round, his blows falling lightly. It was in this round that the Saginaw man got in a hot cross-counter on the Australian's face that staggered him, but the former was slow to take advantage and put his man out.

In the eighth round both tried for a knock-out. "Griffo," however, was wary, and ducked under some vicious swings. The advantage was clearly with Lavigne, but under the articles the referee was compelled to declare the contest a draw.

* * *

The Manchester Gymnastic Club promoted two boxing competitions recently. In the 6st amateur competition Conway stopped Rowan in the middle of the opening round of the final bout. The 8st 3lb professional competition was won by J. King, of Openshaw, who knocked Alec Garrity, of Liverpool, out in the first round of the final bout.

* * *

At Forrester's Hall, February 19, the Reading Abbey Boxing Club held a series of competitions. In the final bout of an 8st 6lb competition R. Loxton and A. Whitcombe faced each other, the latter securing the verdict. The opening bout in the 9st 6lb competition was won by E. Hadley, who cleverly defeated A. Mitchell, whilst E. Hedges retired in the second tie in favour of F. Rhoades, with whom G. Smart boxed a bye. The final produced a most exciting set-to, but eventually the verdict went to Rhoades. One of the most interesting bouts was the meeting of H. Nickless and Dick Chandler; this aroused enthusiasm. Three spirited rounds were contested, honours being easy at the finish. The six-round contest between Smith and Patey was well contested. At the end of the specified rounds Harry Nickless ordered another of two minutes, and in the end Smith won after a grand battle.

* * *

Bill Lee gave purses for boxing contests at his gymnasium in Bermondsey February 17 and 19. On Saturday night the final of a 6st 6lb competition was decided between Joe Wheeler and Jack Cocklin. The latter made a good stand, and gave as good as he received. An extra round resulted in a verdict for Wheeler.

Tom Rowley and Bill Lane were to go six rounds, but in the fourth round the latter saw he was outclassed, and turned up the job. On the second night, Mike Sullivan and Harry Ruddy boxed the final of an 8st competition. It was quite a slugging match throughout; Sullivan had a decided advantage, drawing blood, and, fighting his opponent to a standstill, he was given the award.

* * *

R. D'Arcy Brennan, the veteran pugilist, was given a benefit at the Goodwin Gymnasium, Feb. 19th. Two six-round battles were decided; in the first W. Pike stopped E. Cunningham in the second round; and in the second contest Tom Smith disposed of R. Pepper after a hard bout, which lasted the full number of rounds.

* * *

The Amberley Social Club gave prizes for boxing contests at its Gymnasium in London, Feb. 19th. In a four-round bout George Stocker gained a verdict over Arthur Wallace. Jack Gardner and Bill Williams were to go twelve rounds. The former assumed the aggressive, and hammered his man all round the ring. Williams was knocked down in the fourth round, twice in the fifth round, and again in the sixth. He was unable to respond after the last knock down, and Gardner was given the purse.

* * *

The Sydney Boxing Club held its annual open competitions at Excelsior Baths, Bethnal Green, February 19. For the final bout of the 7st 10lb competition, T. Fitzhenry, Royal Victor B. C., and J. Miles, Sydney B. C., were brought together. The former in the opening round scored the faster, but Miles at the next set-to boxed in the gamest manner possible. The last round proved the most exciting and stubbornly-contested during the whole evening, and though Miles did all he possibly could to hold the upper hand, he failed, and Fitzhenry at the close received the verdict.

A. Course, Vandon B. C., and W. McHenry, Sydney B. C., met in the final of the 8st 8lb competition. Course had the advantage of height and reach, and outclassed his opponent, receiving the decision at the end or the third round.

In the 9st 6lb competition, W. Fossett, Sydney B. C., and H. Crinan, Junior Polytechnic A. C., met for the final. The latter from the outset showed to the best advantage. In the first two rounds Fossett had to do all his boxing on the retreat, but in the last round he woke up in a wonderful manner, and at times more than held his own. His plucky stand at such a late period, however, proved of no avail, and Crinan was given the award.

* * *

On February 17, at Sunderland, a contest with small gloves for a purse took place between J. Cruickshank, of Sunderland, a well known boxer, and a coloured man called Butler's Wolf, of Liverpool. The event took place in the Workmen's Hall, Monkwearmouth. Cruickshank has taken part in several fights, one with the knuckles, and the black is also said to have more than once proved himself an expert. They were matched to box six rounds, and from the outset it was apparent that the men were in grim earnest. The contest was of very short duration. From the first exchange the black showed to decided advantage, being scientifically and physically the better man. He knocked Cruickshank down twice in quick succession, the Sunderland man falling on his head on the second occasion, and he could not rise in the usual time.

* * *

Robert Jones, of Sunderland, and J. M'Geary, of Newcastle, met in a ten round battle at catch weights for £10 and an added purse at Newcastle, February 19. Both were in splendid trim, but M'Geary had a great advantage in weight and strength. Jones, however, scored best in the first five rounds, showing exceeding cleverness, but in the sixth M'Geary, who had evidently been pursuing a waiting policy, rushed in and knocked his opponent out.

* * *

Ned Flynn, the popular manager and secretary of the Kilburn Gymnasium and Athletic Institute, is to be the recipient of a complimentary testimonial at the Kilburn Gymnasium, Granville Road, Cambridge Gardens, N.W., Tuesday and Wednesday, of March 20 and 21. A gigantic programme is now being arranged for, and some interesting contests will be decided in addition to the exhibition bouts of sparring.

Tom O'Rourke has issued a challenge to Billy Plimmer to fight George Dixon to a finish for 10,000 dols. a-side, the boys to weigh in at 8st 11lb at noon on the day of the fight. O'Rourke has 1,000 dols. deposited with the sporting editor of the *New York World* to bind such a match. O'Rourke's last offer was to weigh in at 8st 2lb at three o'clock in the afternoon. He has evidently since determined that the coloured champion can scale down to 8st 11lb and still retain his strength and wonderful stamina. Since that memorable meeting at Madison Square Garden O'Rourke has had Plimmer on the brain, and if he persists in making concessions in order to draw the Englishman on to a fight he may do what he has never yet done—namely, make a bad match for the champion.

ED. SMITH, OF DENVER, COL.

The Heavy-weight who Challenges Jackson.

(*With Portrait.*)

During the past few weeks Ed. Smith, of Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., has been receiving considerable newspaper notoriety, because of his professed desire to fight Peter Jackson for 10,000 dols. Two months ago he was shouting for Charley Mitchell, and figured out how easily Charley would whip Corbett. He journeyed to Florida, and to make himself conspicuous previous to the big fight, announced his desire to fight the winner for 10,000 dols. His challenge was not accepted in good faith, however, because the audience held him up to ridicule.

He has fought a draw with Mitchell; beat Mike Cleary; George Le Blanche, the Marine; Joe Goddard, and Jim Daly.

He sparred an exhibition six rounds with Peter Jackson at Chicago. Probably his set-to with the redoubtable Peter gives him his present confidence in wanting to fight the dusky warrior to a finish. It is hardly likely that Jackson will condescend to entertain any proposal to fight Smith, but will endeavour to induce the Denver man to take on Joe Choynski for a suitable stake, and for as much of an added purse as may be offered by a reliable syndicate or club. J. J. Quinn, backer of Smith, writes:—"I stand ready with my money to back Smith to fight any heavyweight pugillist in the world for 10,000 dols. a-side and the largest purse, according to either Marquis of Queensberry or London prize ring rules. I will agree upon Al Smith of New York or any responsible man to hold the stakes. Now, if Corbett, Jackson, or any man in the world, wants to meet Smith they will not be publishing excuses, but deposit 1,000 dols. as a forfeit, and myself or my representative, with man and money, will be ready to arrange a match, and the question can be settled before June, when it is said Corbett and Jackson are to fight. Independent of myself, Smith can find backing for twice 10,000 dols. to fight either Jackson or Corbett. I make this statement to put Smith in proper light before the public."

IT MADE THEM SICK.

A Cargo of Human Skulls and Bones Dumped at Cardiff.

(*Subject of Illustration.*)

A ghastly discovery was made while unloading the ballast which formed the cargo of the steamship *Durham* at Cardiff the other day. The *Durham* left Millbank Wharf, London, on Thursday week, and on arriving at Cardiff discharged her ballast there in the usual way, a gang of men being employed to unload her. The work had not proceeded far when a disagreeable odour caused dissatisfaction among the men who complained, but continued the work until human skulls and bones were observed in the ballast, when in a body they determined to stop unless extra pay was given to each man employed on the job. The foreman went to the captain with the complaint, and the captain urged the men to resume, which they consented to do after they had succeeded in obtaining the terms asked for. After they had begun work again more human skulls and bones and pieces of rotten wood were discovered, and the stench was so vile that the men were obliged to resort to stimulants to prevent sickness.

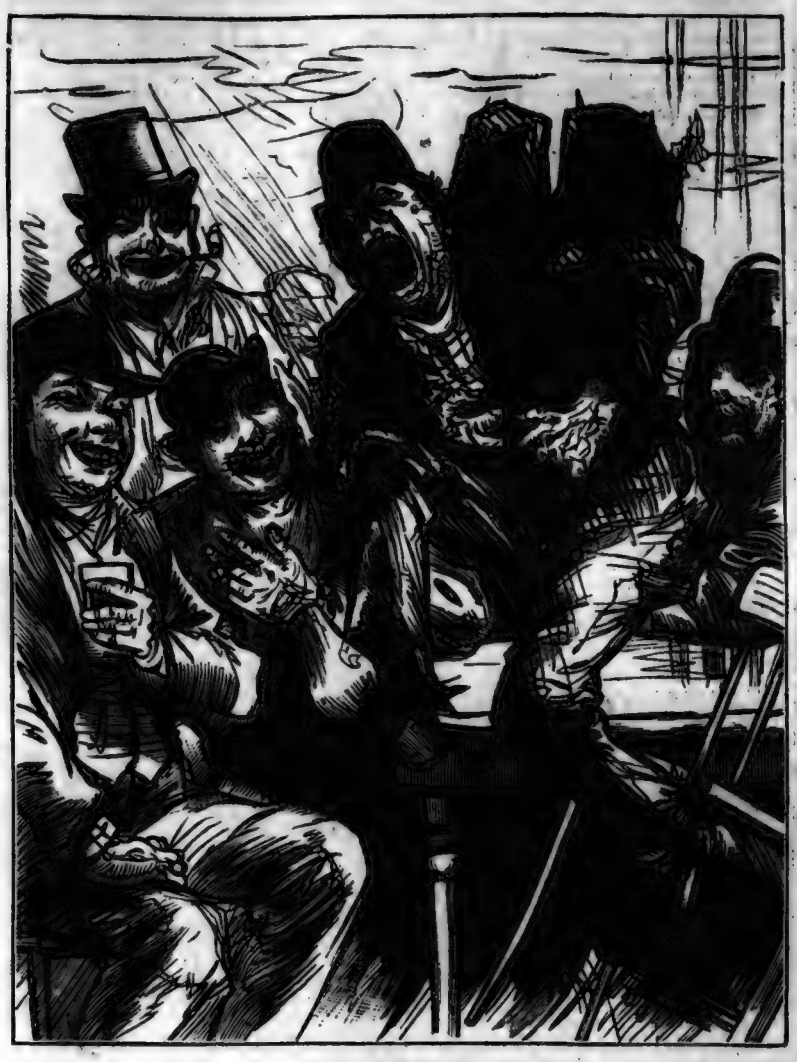
People Ran Away

from the neighbourhood. The local police were communicated with, and it was ascertained that the ballast came from Millbank Prison, which is being demolished. The skulls are said to be those of criminals who were put to death in the prison. The whole of the ballast was tipped in the locality. The discovery caused a great sensation, and has been severely commented on in dock circles at Cardiff.

[F] Wingate: "It must be a queer kind of etiquette they teach at that board school Miss Flyrte has just graduated from."

Walker: "Why so?"

Wingate: "Oh, nothing, only I kissed her in the hallway in the dark the other night and she said, 'Thanks!'"

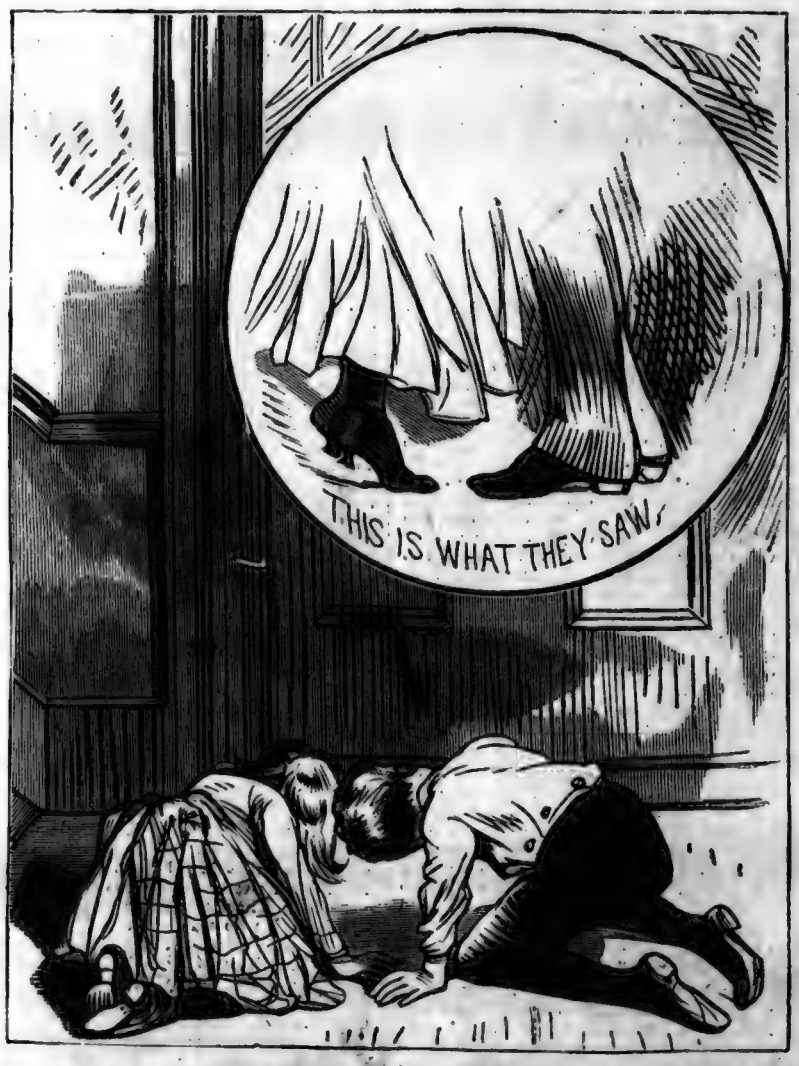


IT MADE HIM JUMP.

Practical Jokers Make an Irishman do some Lively Dancing.

A SHOCKING OUTRAGE IN AMERICA.

A Woman Ravished by a Negro Dies. Two Innocent Men Lynched for the Crime.



WHAT THEY SAW.

Inquisitive Children Cause Family Ructions.

HE CAUGHT THE THIEF.

A Polly who was Feathering his Nest.

CHINESE CELEBRATE THEIR NEW YEAR.

A Quiet Game Disturbed by the Police.

THEY PENETRATED HIS DISGUISE.

The Probable End of West Virginia Outlaws.

OTHER PEOPLES' BUSINESS.

Mdme. Calabresi, the woman who was injured by the explosion in the Rue Saint-Jacques, Paris, died at eight o'clock on the evening of February 21, after suffering great agony.

* * *

The Percy Supper Club, Limited, and Charles Isaac Delaro, of 12, Percy Street, Tottenham Court Road, were summoned at Marlborough Street the other day for selling wines and spirits without a licence. Mr. Newton fined Delaro £50, and the Club £30.

* * *

Mr. Samuel Lewis, who arrived at Monte Carlo recently, has been exceedingly lucky at the gambling tables, having already won over £16,000 at trente et quarante. His stakes are almost invariably the maximum allowed. Next to him as a successful player comes a Hungarian gentleman, who won £6,000, February 22, at rouge et noir and trente et quarante.

* * *

The African merchant at Bristol named Andrew was refused divorce February 22. This is the case in which the respondent was in his first wife's service as parlour-maid. They were married in 1889, and some time afterwards was separated, but afterwards lived together occasionally. Mrs. Andrew gave a denial to the charges of adultery.

* * *

The action of the Frenchman in Paris who put some bank notes up his chimney for safety, and then burnt them through forgetfulness, is by no means an uncommon one. Only a few days ago, in a well-known London club, a member threw one thousand pounds in notes into the fire, thinking they were merely old letters. In this case the numbers had been kept, and the money will be duly paid up by the Bank of England.

* * *

It is related of the famous Buenos Ayres beauty, Aimée Blanche, that she once loved a snake-charmer, who, as a proof of his affection, taught her to handle, and at last to instruct, a large cobra. He insisted upon drawing the reptile's fangs, but she would not consent. She taught the snake to strike at a red handkerchief. Obtaining proof of her lover's infidelity, she spread a red silk handkerchief on his face while he was asleep, and the cobra struck him repeatedly. He died without speaking.

* * *

Recently, in a Lancashire parish, a clergyman made the following announcement:—"My friends, you will probably have heard that the Bishop of Manchester has announced his intention of visiting every church in his diocese, and consequently we may very shortly expect to see his lordship at this church." Then, in the next breath he announced his text—I. Peter, v. 8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour."

* * *

Last October Annie Elizabeth Douglas advertised in a Birmingham paper for a husband, and succeeded in getting several aspirants for her affections. She cast her lot with Alexander Arthur Douglas of Battersea, and they were married Christmas eve at St. Luke's, Chelsea. She gave "hubby" £12 before the ceremony was performed, and since then she parted company with her "all," £78, to Alexander, who in turn secured all her jewellery, and then decided to go it alone. Mrs. Douglas had her faithless spouse arrested, and when brought up for trial he was remanded by Mr. de Rutzen, at Westminster Court.

* * *

At the Liverpool Magistrates' Court, February 20, an incident of a novel character arose. In the course of the proceedings, Mr. G. Behrend presiding, some persons were summoned for allowing their chimneys to be on fire. Amongst these the magistrate's own name appeared. Being the only justice present, he asked the clerk of the court if he could fine himself, to which that gentleman replied that "he thought if he would inflict double the usual penalty, justice would be met." Mr. Behrend promptly fined himself 2s. and 2s. costs, the usual penalty being 1s. and 1s. costs, and paid over the money to the clerk.

The way of the transgressor is hard, a fact best shown over the result of the trial of John Y. McKane, the "Political Boss" of New York State. On February 19 he was sentenced to six years' imprisonment in the State Prison for conspiracy to violate the Election Law in November last. McKane was the head man of the Coney Island Club where so many finish fights were decided for large purses. He practically monopolised the vote of Gravesend, but carried his power too far, and his overthrow was the result. He threw the vote of the town for Grover Cleveland as President of the United States in 1884, but worked against Cleveland in 1888 for Benjamin Harrison. In 1892 he switched over to the Cleveland side again. He is a Methodist deacon, and is worth over a million dollars.

* * *

The houses of twenty-three Anarchists were visited in Paris the other night by the police. Sébastien Faure was arrested at his lodgings and a number of important papers captured, among them being letters from Léauthier and various prominent Anarchists, as well as Vaillant's will in his own handwriting. Sébastien Faure was taken by the Commissary to his office, and fell asleep while waiting to be questioned. Later on he denied that he belonged to any association. When he was reminded that he was in close relations with militant Anarchists, he coolly replied that they wrote to him, so he had to answer their letters. Another visit was that paid to the dwelling of an Anarchist who keeps a wine-shop in the Rue Ramey. He was, his wife said, making purchases at the Central Market, and nothing appears to have been seen of him since. Nothing of much importance was discovered at this house. The tavern was open as usual during the day. Another man, at whose abode some revolutionary prints were seized, denies that he is an Anarchist, and says that his youngest child is being brought up by nuns. He affirms that he only bought the journals out of curiosity.

The office of an advanced journal was also visited by the police this morning, and some letters and papers were seized showing that the managers—one of whom, by the way, bears a striking resemblance to Emile Henry—were in regular communication with him and other well-known Anarchists. No arrest was made besides that of Sébastien Faure. Several of the Anarchists were not found at their dwellings, and are believed to have fled. In some cases only seditious journals were discovered. In one house revolvers were seized, and at another an enormous cracker. Little appears to have been found at Saint-Denis.

* * *

In the States many of the prominent pugilists are taking to wearing full dress suits for evening attire and particularly when attending the theatre where they are engaged to appear in conjunction with the performance. Jim Corbett, Peter Jackson, John L. Sullivan, Charley Mitchell, Joe Choynski, Jack Dempsey, and we might name many others in the States who present a genteel appearance in full dress. During the day they are clothed in the height of fashion, and one would hardly take them to be "face maulers" by profession. The English boxer, as a rule, has not advanced so rapidly as the foreigner in regard to style in dress or general appearance, but it is likely he, too, will take his turn to "tog" out in the height of fashion and sport about the town. We should like to see some of the "old timers" turn out in full dress. What a sight they would present! Take, for instance, one who

Wants to be "Tough" Looking.

and at the same time don broad-cloth, he would be a subject of ridicule for the practical joker. We are pleased to note the improvement in the manners of our modern boxer. Because he follows that calling as a means of livelihood, it is no reason why he can't be a gentleman and conduct himself as such. The majority of them realise the fact, and the improvement in general appearance has indeed been rapid.

COFFINS FOR THREE.

A Farmer's Strange Freak in Preparing for Death.

(Subject of Illustration.)

A farmer in the south of England has taken rather a strange freak. He believes his days are numbered, likewise those of his family, and to that end has had made by a carpenter a coffin for each member of his family, in order to be prepared when the day of judgment arrives. He was rather particular about his "wooden overcoat," because before he accepted it he laid in the box to see that it was large enough for his carcass. Three pine coffins are stored away at his residence, and he claims that when he or any member of his family "shuffles off," funeral expenses will be but trifling.

JULES PAUL GAUTIER.

Scientific Diver and Trick Swimmer.

(With Portrait.)

Jules Paul Gautier, the champion scientific high diver and trick swimmer, was born at Islington, London, of French parents, on October 9, 1856, stands 5ft 4½in, and weighs 10st 7lb in costume. He took to swimming at the age of four years; has won upwards of 300 prizes, and saved thirty-five lives from drowning. He won the long distance Championship of France in the River Seine, in 1878. In 1889 he startled the swimming fraternity with the announcement that he would swim with both hands and feet manacled in the Thames through every bridge in London, which feat he performed, to the surprise of those who flocked the bridges on the occasion. His high dives, with arms bound behind and feet tied together, and also with shackled arms and legs, were the attraction at the recent World's Water Show at Earl's Court. He has been specially selected to perform before royalty on many occasions, and is at present the teacher of swimming at Highgate School and the Islington Public Baths. A few of his latest achievements in England follow:—

June 29, 1889. Swam eight miles in the Thames, Putney to London Bridge, with both hands and feet manacled. Time, 2 hours, 8 minutes.

September 19, 1890. Dived from the top of London Bridge at low tide, with both hands and feet manacled.

August 10, 1892. Swam with both hands and feet chained for upwards of four hours in the Channel off Dover and Folkestone.

August 17, 1892. Performed the feat of diving (with arms and feet chained) from a raised platform off Folkestone Pier, a distance of 71 feet above the level of the sea.

August 25, 1892. Swam in the Channel between Dungeness and Folkestone, a distance of 18 miles, in 3h 35min 24secs.

September 3, 1892. Performed in the sea, at Folkestone, at night time, by torchlight, accomplishing the feat of diving 60 feet, bound from head to foot (arms behind) with 18 yards of rope.

September 23, 1892. A dive of over 100 feet manacled, from the upper topsail yard of the ship Benvenue, in the Channel off Sandgate. The wreck was undergoing destruction by explosives. Gautier was in a boat watching his opportunity of a lull in the operations, then mounting the rigging he reached the desired spot. Gautier adjusted manacles to his wrists and ankles, and after carefully balancing himself dived successfully.

IT MADE HIM JUMP.

Practical Jokers Make an Irishman do some Lively Dancing.

(Subject of Illustration.)

"If you don't believe it," writes a Liverpool correspondent, "just try the trick. Get someone who has been out in the rain to allow you to burn some paper on his shoe, and if he don't say that his foot feels as though it was in a vice, I'll buy him the best supper he can sit down to at the Adelphi Hotel. I saw a fair illustration the other evening in a beer-shop in the lower end of town. An old Irishman waddled in a bit the worse off for 'booze.' He got a half of 'fourpenny,' and soon as he caused it to disapper he fell into a doze. The manner in which he snored would have done justice to a foghorn off the coast of Ireland. One of the party proposed a practical joke, and he, laying a newspaper across his right foot, put a match to it. As the blaze reached the boot the muscles of the Irishman's face commenced to twitch. His countenance was a sight to behold, and as the last spark died out the victim awoke in pain. He jumped in the air and fairly howled with rage. He dare not put the right foot on the floor, but kept up a series of raving that created mirth all around. Finally, one of the party took the Irishman's boot off which afforded him instant relief.

SAVED HER SISTER FROM DISGRACE.

An Oily-tongued Reprobate Baulked in an Attempt to Ruin a Girl.

(Subject of Illustration.)

There resides not far from Olympia a young lady who will thank her sister for saving her from ruin. She formed the acquaintance of an elderly and gentlemanly-appearing man at the theatre a short time ago, and he invited her out to dine. Then came a theatre and dinner party, and finally it resulted in visits from the man to the young lady's home. The younger sister failed to take kindly to the visits, and on each occasion of a visit she placed herself in a convenient spot where she could overhear all the conversation which transpired.

So long as the familiarity was confined to kisses and embraces she interposed no objection, but the other evening matters were progressing a trifle too far. In the drawing-room in the rear of the house the pair were billing and cooing at a rate which convinced the younger one that all was not in keeping with good sense and discretion. The young lady lay on the lounge and her aged lover was in the act of turning out the gas when the sister threw open the windows and at the point of a revolver ordered him to have the gas lit and make a hasty exit from the establishment. Though the girl was condemned by the pair for interfering, an explanation to her parents brought forth a merited applause, and a close watch is kept on the eldest girl to see that she does not bring disgrace upon the family.

A SAFEGUARD AGAINST MURDER.

Rules laid down by a Sheriff ensures Peace in a new Western Town.

(Subject of Illustration.)

A town is being developed in Oklahama territory, U.S.A., which gives promise of being one of the most peaceful in the Western States. The sheriff has inaugurated a rule which compels all new arrivals to call on him and deposit their firearms before taking up residence in the township. When they are prepared to leave their weapons will be restored to them. The Sheriff declares that he runs the town, and will not tolerate any firearms within his jurisdiction, and any who decline to obey his mandate are escorted out of the boundary line at the point of the rifle.

AN ENGLISHMAN'S SAD PLIGHT.

A correspondent writing from Williamsport, Pa., says:—"Three years of imprisonment have lifted the cloud from the mind of a man supposed to be a common horse-thief, but who is now revealed as Dr. Herbert Spencer, formerly a prosperous London physician. As a climax to his strange adventure, the Board of Pardons will be at once petitioned for his release from the Eastern Penitentiary in Philadelphia.

"On September 25, 1891, three horses were stolen from the stable of G. W. Youngman in this city. The thief was easily tracked, and was captured at Mount Pleasant, Pa. In effecting his capture, an officer was shot in the hip and another was wounded in the arm. The horse-thief had a gun-shot wound in the side and one arm was nearly torn from the socket. He was brought back to Williamsport and locked in the county gaol. While in prison he made half-a-dozen attempts to end his life. He was tried in December, 1891, under the name of Herbert Spencer Darwin, was convicted, and sentenced to the penitentiary for four years and a half. Before sentence was pronounced it was pretty conclusively shown that at the time of his trial the man was insane. He has spent over two years in prison, and until the first of the present year he showed no change in his character or actions.

"Then came a sudden and startling development. The condemned thief who had shown so many signs of insanity, and whose bungling attempt to steal three horses was easily overthrown, showed signs of returning reason. Quickly these signs multiplied, and now the prisoner, seemingly a perfectly rational man, announces his identity. He is not Herbert Spencer Darwin, but Dr. Herbert Spencer. He came to this country in 1890 with 6,000 dols. in cash. He intended to locate in the United States.

"Soon after his arrival his mind became a blank, and he recalls nothing that has happened the meanwhile. Through the penitentiary officials he learned where he had been tried and convicted. Sufficient proof has been gathered, it is asserted, to establish the truthfulness of Dr. Spencer's claims that he was insane when he stole the horses and nearly ever since. Friends will use every effort possible to have the unfortunate prisoner set free."

THE "KID" AS A DECOY.

How a Virago Works a New Racket to a Profit.

(Subject of Illustration.)

Men and women who seek to lead a life of leisure and easy virtue are ever on the alert to invent some dodge to bilk the unsuspecting males of spare money. It is never safe at any time for a man to wander into strange pasture fields unless he is prepared to meet with most any scheme imaginable, and when bitten he has only himself to blame. The woman who is always prepared to pollute herself for money is indeed a dangerous character, and will not hesitate to concoct new devices for the sake of increasing her revenue. Realising the weakness of mankind, she will study her part, and the wiles and ways she will resort to in order to entice trade are beyond description. From the time a young man attains the age of eighteen till he is planted six feet below the surface, he is pretty sure to be fascinated by womankind; and where one is loyal to the object of his affections, you will find ninety-nine who are ever ready to accept the company of any attractive prostitute to satisfy his desire for lust. One would imagine that age would develop a tendency to avoid the fallen woman, but such is not the case.

Those who barter their souls for money seldom live single-handed, but take up with some profligate who is too lazy to earn an honest living, and exists on the immorality of his companion. The badger game, walking the main thoroughfares, or visiting resorts of prominence, are common traits in the fallen woman; but a novel scheme was worked recently, which only tends towards making immorality a crime of greater magnitude. A woman who had led a life of shame for many years is the promoter of the latest enticer. She utilises a child as a decoy. With the decoy she sat in the dress circle at one of our theatres the other evening, and the boy who could not have been more than six years of age, offered to an elderly gentleman in the next seat some of his sweets. The bait caught the "sucker," who immediately opened up a conversation with the supposed parent.

After theatre it was a late supper and a cab home. The old "cove" was requested to remain in the sitting-room, whilst baby was being put to bed. He had not long to wait before he was joined by his new acquaintance and a bottle of wine. They were to indulge in a drink before the husband, or at least the lover, returned home for the night. After a taste of wine the pair sat on a couch and embraced each other. The victim was too greatly enraptured with his catch to realise that his pockets were being tapped, and, about the time when proposals commenced to bear a sign of immorality, his pockets were rifled, and then the lover made his entrance as an enraged husband. The victim felt as though fortune favoured him, because he was permitted to depart without a sound thrashing. He had not travelled a great distance, however, ere he awakened to the realisation that the venture had cost him his watch, chain, and money. Being taken to the house and the hasty exit he made failed to afford him an opportunity of knowing just which house he had been in; hence he was forced to accept the loss gracefully.

SULPHUR BITTERS

IT WILL drive the humor from your system, and make your skin clean and smooth. Those Pimples and Blotches which mar your beauty are caused by **IMPURE BLOOD.** They can be removed in a short time, if you are wise and use the great blood purifier, Sulphur Bitters,

TRY A BOTTLE TO-DAY.

Why suffer with Boils? Why rave with that terrible Headache? Why lay and toss on that bed of pain with **RHEUMATISM?** Use Sulphur Bitters. They will cure you where all others fail. The dose is small—only a teaspoonful. **TRY IT** and you will be satisfied. The young, the aged and tottering are soon made well by its use. Remember what you read here, it may save your life, it has **SAVED HUNDREDS.**

If you are suffering from Kidney Disease, and wish to live to old age, use Sulphur Bitters. They never fail to cure. Get it of your Druggist.

DON'T WAIT. GET IT AT ONCE.

Sulphur Bitters will cure Liver Complaint. Don't be discouraged;

IT WILL CURE YOU.

GERALD O'ROURKE, OF LONDON.

Champion Diver and Swimming Instructor.

(With Portrait.)

The subject of our sketch has been the successful swimming master of the Kensington Baths for the past five years, having taught pupils from the age of five to sixty-nine years old. He is well liked amongst pupils, and never had one that failed to learn the art of swimming.

O'Rourke won a professional race, October 16, 1890, beating E. J. Reddish, of Brighton, and H. R. Taylor, of Rotherhithe. He has a gold medal for life-saving, besides trophies for swimming races.

Diving being his "hobby" he has devoted much time to practising from lofty platforms.

He has been performing a dive of 75ft into 7ft of water successfully twice a day for ten months at the Royal Aquarium. He has many challengers, but none have been able to defeat him. He challenges the world at high diving.

BUNCOED MILLIONAIRE GOULD.

A Precious Pair of Blackmailers who have made them all Settle.

(Subject of Illustration.)

The latest story of how Zella Nicolus blackmailed the Gould family of New York is a startling one, and bears the mark of truth. While the family of millionaires were visiting the World's Fair at Chicago a few months ago, a cheque for 40,000dols. was given by Howard Gould to the fascinating blackmailer, Zella, and George Gould, the railway magnate, stopped payment on it, which led to Zella and her lover, Ruhman, to visit New York to get the money. It is said that George gave Zella 10,000dols. as a compromise for not taking the suit into court, with the promise that the adventuress should leave the country.

The precious pair did leave, but returned to New York city recently, and were registered as guests in the same hotel with George Gould and his wife, the New Netherlands.

The latest story is a confession of Al Ruhman's accomplice in Chicago, Henry Schloss, and he swears that Ruhman was a clerk in a misfit clothing store, and met Zella on the street. They secured two rooms on North State Street, and Ruhman laid his plans to catch wealthy men, using Zella as his tool.

According to Schloss, ex-Mayor Washburne, "Buffalo Bill" Cody, a famous English whip, and some of the leading officials of the fair paid tribute long before Howard Gould met her.

By a street flirtation, Howard was led to visit Zella in her apartments, and at the fourth call a knock was heard on the door; then it was burst open, and Ruhman rushed in with a revolver, and in the old, hackneyed, badger style said:—"At last I've caught you."

Howard is said to have crept behind a Japanese screen, and Zella pleaded on her knees.

"Come out or I'll kill you both," yelled Ruhman, but with difficulty keeping his face straight. Howard begged for mercy, and pleaded for his life.

"No; I'll not kill you. I'll call the police and expose you, and I'll spend 100,000dols to put you both in Joliet gaol."

Well, this is what started young Gould, and he offered to pay anything to get out of the scrape, but Ruhman told him he did not want his money. He might give it to "that woman," for he was going to cast her off without a dollar.

"I have a check in my pocket," said the frightened victim, and he fumbled around for it. To Ruhman's astonishment it was for 40,000dols. drawn by George Gould.

Then Gould signed it over to Zella and left, heaving a sigh of relief.

The rest has been told, how the payment was stopped, and how George Gould got hold of the check after giving Zella 500dols, and refused to give it up.

The compromise settled the matter, and the case will never come to trial.

Such ends the sensation which has kept New York agog for many months.

CALLED UPON TO SETTLE.

What Transpired at a Strand Cafe.

(Subject of Illustration.)

Customers in a café on the Strand last Friday doubtless took notice of a young man in evening dress and a female companion partaking of a sumptuous dinner. The young man was apparently a clerk in one of our city business houses, and tried to appear at his best. During the progress of the meal he was accosted by a gentleman who demanded the payment of an old account. The bill was for haberdashery, and the creditor didn't hesitate to enumerate the items, greatly to the horror of the young lady and the discomfiture of the debtor. The irate collector was ordered out, but it was too late then to repair the damage which he had done.

A FRENCH TERROR GAOLED.

An extraordinary criminal, named Lestéven, whose deeds bear some resemblance to those of the Whitechapel murderer, was brought before the Seine Assize Court, Paris, Feb. 14. The prisoner, who is about thirty-three years old, is accused of having made attempts to murder four women. He rejoiced in the *sobriquet* of the "Spaniard of Montmartre," and was for some time the terror of that district, his strength and ferocity causing him to be dreaded by men as well as by women. The last of the murderous outrages of which he is accused was committed in June, 1893. On the 10th of that month he met a young woman named Forti, who was out of employment. She consented to accompany him to his dwelling in the Rue Hassard, and while there she was beaten black and blue by Lestéven. The fellow knocked her head against the wall because she cried for help, made her beg his pardon for half an hour on her knees, fired at her, and, finally, flung her out of his window, calling her "the Cholera." The woman was not killed by the fall, although her skull, her jaws, and her legs were fractured, and she had also received a bullet-wound in the head from Lestéven's revolver. The savage barricaded himself in his room when he heard the police on the stairs. He was captured after a desperate struggle, and protested that "the Cholera" had thrown herself out of the window because he had a dispute with her. Enquiries having been made about the prisoner's antecedents, it was discovered that he was the man who had attempted to murder three other women named Jeanne Dange, Antoinette Poujaux, and Eugénie Ramponneau. He met Dange in March last, and, after having beaten her, tried to pull all her teeth out, but the woman managed to escape from his clutches before he could effect any serious mischief. Poujaux, whom he took to his room in April, had a narrow escape from being flung out of the window. After having beaten her with his boots, Lestéven carried her towards what he called the "place of execution." She struggled violently, and, her cries having attracted the attention of neighbours, the fellow relinquished his intention of pushing her through the window, and allowed her to go away, threatening at the same time that if she informed against him he would find an immediate opportunity for murdering her outright. Eugénie Ramponneau was equally lucky in escaping the window, but when she left Lestéven she was almost crippled owing to the injuries which had been inflicted on her. The prisoner made no defence, and listened without replying to the record of his crimes.

A TEXAS DESPERADO

Murders in Cold Blood Three Men a Woman and a Child at a Railway Station.

One of the most atrocious crimes that has been perpetrated in the history of Texas has been committed in the Grand Central Railway station at Houston. Jim Mitchell, a desperate ruffian, who lives some miles away, had been in the city of Houston all day on February 19 drinking heavily. He used violent language in a public-house, and he and some other men quarrelled. These men, not knowing his character, attempted to remonstrate with him. When they left the public-house Mitchell followed them to the railway station, which was crowded with people, and, drawing a loaded revolver from his pocket, began firing indiscriminately. A rush was made by the panic-stricken crowd for the doorways, and in the struggle to escape many were badly hurt. Mitchell emptied the whole of the chambers of his revolver, and at each shot someone fell—first the three men and then the woman, and last of all the child. The successive reports were heard by the police in the neighbourhood, who hurried to the scene. They found the blackguard reloading his weapon preparatory to firing again. Mitchell was at once arrested, and lodged in gaol. The news of the tragedy spread like wildfire through the city, and a tremendous throng of people assembled in the vicinity of the police-station. The police were reinforced by a large number of special constables, who were placed on duty to prevent the excited mob from lynching the scoundrel.

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ATTEMPT TO DESTROY A LAND MARK.

Boston's Unemployed Prevented from Wrecking the old State House.

(Subject of Illustration.)

A lion and unicorn are conspicuous ornaments on the old State House on Washington Street, in the city of Boston, U.S.A. The structure was erected during King George's reign, and having for many years been discarded for the transaction of the business of the State, it is occupied as business offices of railway and steamship companies. Some of the unemployed were caught the other day in an attempt to pull down the ornaments. It being at an early hour in the morning there were but few people about, and had it not been for the timely arrival of the police the old land mark would have been disfigured. This is the second attempt which has been made on the building.

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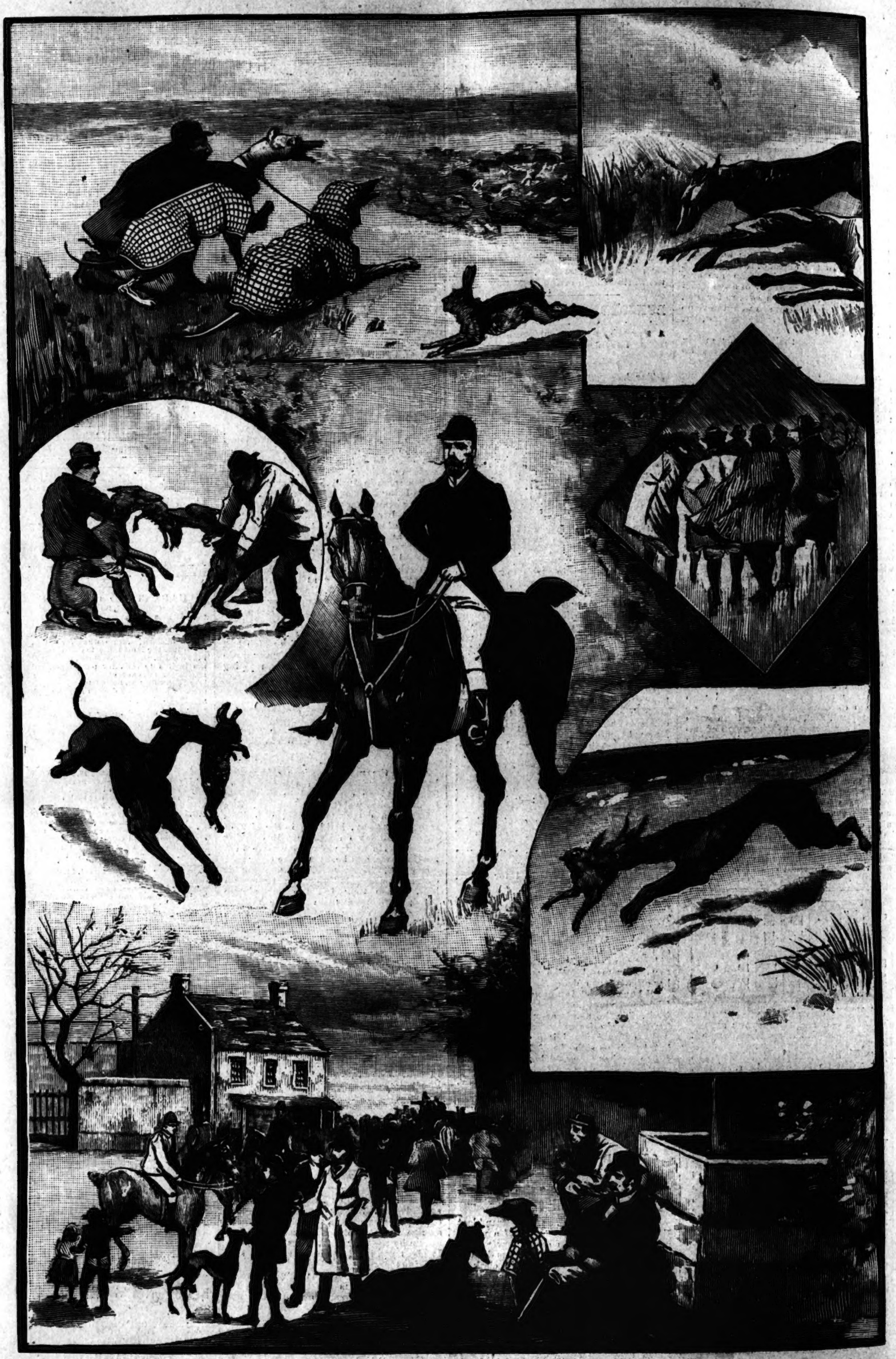

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The Mirror of Life is published every Wednesday by The Albion Publishing Company, 108, Fleet Street, London, E.C.